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JOHN GRAY BLOUNT

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Washington, North Carolina

North Carolina State Library
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THE JOHN GRAY BLOUNT PAPERS

Edited by

ALICE BARNWELL KEITH

Volume One
1764 - 1789

Raleigh
State Department of Archives and History
1952

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FOREWORD

In 1933 "The extensive and notable John Gray Blount Historical Collection of manuscripts and relics" was "acquired by the North Carolina Historical Commission [now the North Carolina State Department of Archives and History]." Miss Lida T. Rodman of Washington, N. C., had arranged the material and the late Colonel W. B. Rodman "negotiated its permanent deposit with the North Carolina Historical Commission."¹

The collection of approximately 10,000 letters, documents, and papers "is the largest and perhaps the most important group of personal manuscripts in existence relating to North Carolina history. The unique and important feature of the collection is the large portion of the material consisting of several thousand letters written prior to 1800. . . . Many of the letters, particularly those of United States Senator William Blount and Congressman Thomas Blount, will attract study by national as well as State historians."² Among these letters, most of which were written to John Gray Blount, are some from most of the important men of the state and from many national figures.

The massiveness of the collection together with the ephemeral character of the content of many of the manuscripts made the publication of the whole impracticable as well as undesirable. An attempt has been made by the editor to select for publication those which are most interesting and historically valuable, and they have been chronologically arranged, to appear in a series of volumes. Volume I covers the years to 1790. Every effort has been made to reproduce the material as accurately as possible, even to the retention of the original spelling and punctuation. As a whole, the collection is in a remarkable state of preservation; in a few instances the fragmentary and dilapidated condition of the manuscripts has made their reproduction far from satisfactory. The captions of the letters have been arbitrarily arranged by the editor, but always with due regard to authenticity and meaning.

The editor is indebted to many persons for assistance in the preparation of this study. Dr. Christopher Crittenden, director

¹*The News and Observer* (Raleigh), May 7, 1933.

²*The News and Observer* (Raleigh), May 7, 1933; Colonel William B. Rodman to Miss Laura E. Luttrell, Norfolk, March 31, 1933 (McClung Collection, Lawson-McGhee Library, Knoxville, Tennessee).

of the North Carolina State Department of Archives and History, approved the publication of the material. Mr. D. L. Corbitt, head of the Division of Publications of the Department, has given direct supervision and assistance. Mr. W. F. Burton, head of the Division of Archives and Manuscripts, Mrs. William S. West, Mrs. Julia C. Meconnahey, Mrs. Mary J. Rogers, and other members of the staff of the Department have been of invaluable aid in making the materials available to the editor. Especial mention should be made of Mrs. N. W. Northcutt and Miss Eva J. Lawrence of the Division of Publications, who performed the arduous and extremely meticulous task of typing the material from the original manuscripts.

Much help was received from individuals at the University of North Carolina. The late Dr. Albert Ray Newsome, head of the Department of History, directed the editor's doctoral dissertation, "Three North Carolina Blount Brothers in Business and Politics, 1783-1812," which has been exceedingly valuable in this work. Mrs. Lyman Cotten and Mrs. Caroline Andrews Daniel gave untiring assistance in locating materials in the Southern Historical Collection of the Library of the University of North Carolina. Similar services were given by Miss Pollyanna Creekmore and other members of the staff of the McClung Collection of the Lawson-McGhee Library, Knoxville, Tennessee; and by Miss Nannie Tilley and Miss Pauline Cone of the Manuscript Department of Duke University Library. Miss Hazel Baity and Mrs. William Harris of the Meredith College Library also gave the editor much help in obtaining materials and Miss Elizabeth G. McPherson, Reference Consultant of the Manuscripts Division of the Library of Congress, made a valuable survey of relevant materials in that library, which were particularly helpful in the study of the career of William Blount.

Descendants of the Jacob Blount family, especially Mr. W. B. Rodman, Jr., of Washington, N. C., who is a descendant of John Gray Blount, have given enthusiastic and untiring assistance in supplying information and every other service which might further the preparation of the study. Mrs. W. B. Rodman, Jr., has been especially helpful, contributing much time and effort, and Mr. Marvin K. Blount of Greenville, a descendant of Sharpe Blount, has also given assistance.

Special recognition should be made of the kindness and generosity of President Carlyle Campbell and the Board of Trustees and other members of the administration of Meredith College for their interest and encouragement and for the grants of the Faculty Fund which have contributed to the preparation of this work.

ALICE B. KEITH.

June 30, 1952.
Raleigh, N. C.

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JACOB BLOUNT'S FAMILY

The problem of securing settlers for the new land was one of England's greatest concerns for America in the seventeenth century. The government made liberal provisions for this purpose, even to waiving religious qualifications in times when religious variances were easily identifiable with political offenses. Still, more colonists were needed. There were many would-be settlers in Europe who were unable to bear the costs of transportation. For such persons colonizing agencies offered assistance by promising grants of land to anyone who was able to convey the less fortunate to the New World. Since land was abundant in America, hundreds of acres could be given to this purpose. Among those who received such grants was Thomas Blount. In the spring of 1697 the Lords Proprietors of the Carolinas granted Blount, for "transporting" 266 acres in what became the County of Beaufort in North Carolina.¹

Not long after Blount received his grant, Lionel Reading began to purchase land in the same general area. In 1701 he purchased a "plantation" from Edward Pearl on Pamlico (Pamlico) River in the County of Bath and the next year he bought 640 acres from Colonel Thomas Pollock. The latter purchase included the land with all "housing, fencing, woods and woodland." Shortly afterward (1706) he bought an acre and four poles on the front street of the town of Bath.²

Reading had five children: three sons—Nathaniel, Thomas, and Churchill—and two daughters—Sarah and Ann (Ann Elizabeth). When Lionel died (1708) he left a will bequeathing to his daughter Ann one Negro woman, Diana; some furniture and furnishings; and five pounds currency to be given to her when she reached her fifteenth year or married with the consent of her mother, Grace Reading.³

¹Deed Book of Beaufort County (vault of register of deeds, Washington, North Carolina), I (1701-1729), 1.

²Deed Book of Beaufort County, I, 13, 19, 62.

³North Carolina Wills, 1663-1789 (North Carolina Department of Archives and History, Raleigh), XXVI, 8, Lyonel Reading's will, July 12, 1708; J. Bryan Grimes, *Abstract of North Carolina Wills Compiled from Original Wills in the Office of the Secretary of State* (Raleigh: U. M. Uzell & Co., 1910), 170.

Ann married Thomas Blount, presumably the son of the Thomas mentioned above,⁴ by whom she had four sons: Reading, James, John, and Jacob. Ann's husband, Thomas Blount, died about 1729 and she administered his estate. Her brother Churchill Reading and a neighbor, Thomas Worsley, Junior, went on her bond for £1,000.⁵ The widow soon remarried, this time John Caldom (Caldon, or Coldam). Caldom was a justice of peace in Beaufort County in 1734 and he purchased land on the south side of Pamlico River in 1736.⁶ Ann and Caldom had one son, Churchill Caldom.⁷ Caldom died in 1740 and Ann Elizabeth, this time signed Elizabeth, proved his estate.⁸ Ann Elizabeth herself died soon after this.⁹

Jacob, the fourth son of Thomas and Ann Elizabeth Blount, was destined to become an important citizen of North Carolina and through his unusual family to play a significant part in American affairs for over half a century.¹⁰ In 1748 he married Barbara Gray of Bertie County and for some years following he resided in that county near Windsor.¹¹ Barbara had inherited 600 acres of land on the west side of Cashia (now Cashie) River, adjoining the land of her brother William.¹² It is probable that Jacob and Barbara lived on this land while in Bertie. While there, Jacob was made a justice of the peace,¹³ an office which at that time was usually bestowed only on prominent citizens of a community. Three of Jacob's and Barbara's children were born in

⁴Genealogies on this are not very satisfactory. The late Colonel William Rodman, a descendant of Thomas Blount and Ann Reading, worked diligently on the family history and came to the conclusion that Ann's husband was the first-mentioned Thomas [W. B. Rodman to Mr. Lindsey Warren (copy), Norfolk, Virginia, October 28, 1932 (McClung Collection, Lawson-McGhee Library, Knoxville)]. Stuart Hill [The Hill Family of Bertie, Martin and Halifax Counties, North Carolina. The Bryans, Whitmels, Blounts, Norfleets, Halls, Stuarts, Weldons, Eatons and other Allied Families (typed copy. 4 vols. State Library, Raleigh)] thought that the Thomas who married Ann Reading was the son of the first Thomas. Stephens and Chapman [William Henry Stephens and Mary Louise Chapman, compilers, Blount and Stephens Families, 1782-1933 (typewritten copy in the McClung Collection)] in their sketch of the Blounts accept Ann Reading's husband as the son of the first-mentioned Thomas, who is said to have been the son of Sir Walter Blount of England.

⁵Secretary of State's Papers (North Carolina Department of Archives and History), September 10, 1729.

⁶Secretary of State's Papers, March 23, 1734; Deed Book of Beaufort County, II, 343.

⁷North Carolina Wills, XXVI, will of Churchill Reading, September 19, 1734.

⁸Deed Book of Beaufort County, II, 380, 381; Secretary of State's Papers, County of Beaufort, 1734.

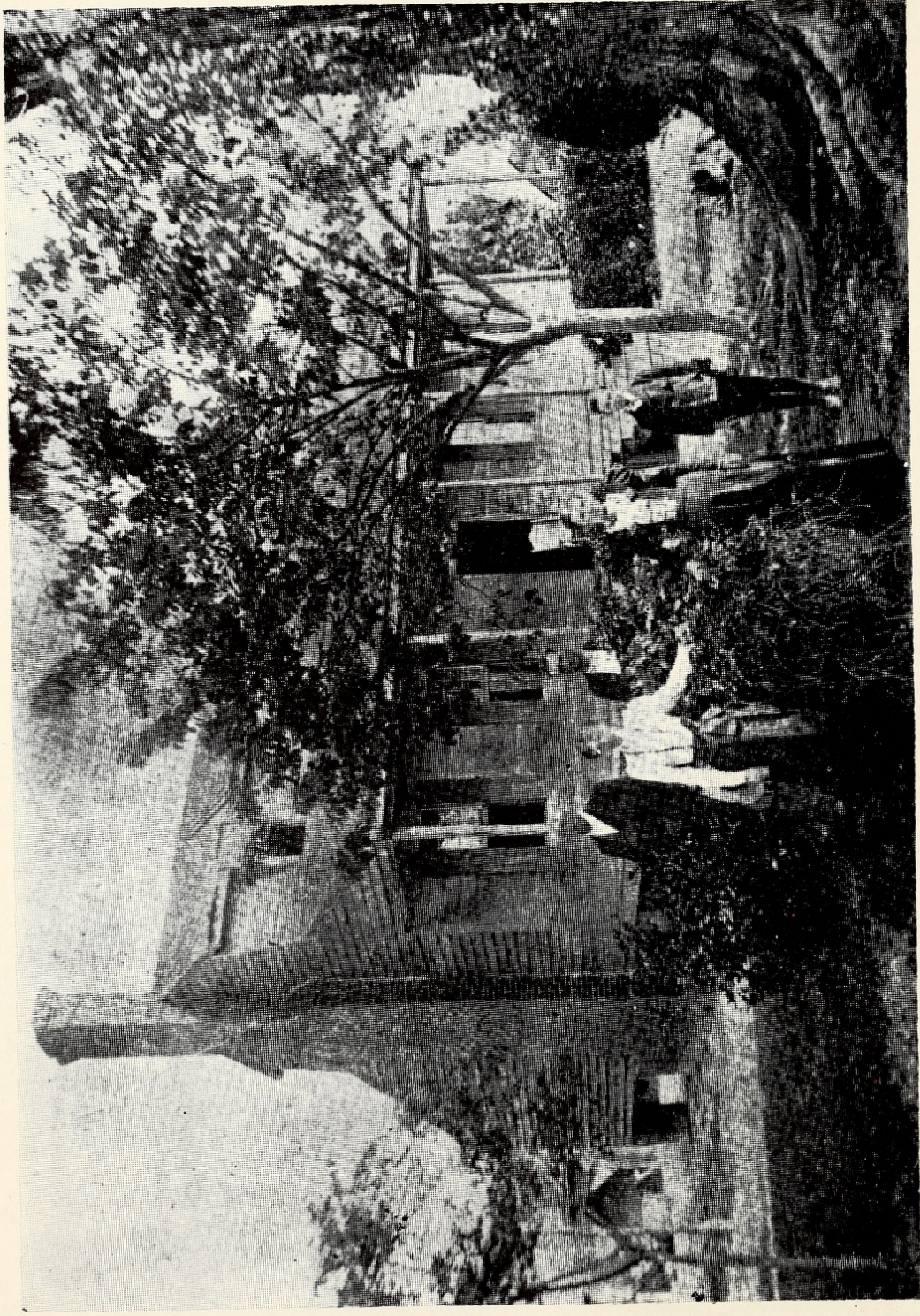
⁹North Carolina Wills, XXVI, will of Thomas Reading, February 24, 1749.

¹⁰See Alice B. Keith, Three North Carolina Blount Brothers in Business and Politics, 1783-1812 (unpublished dissertation, University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill), 1-9. The records for Jacob Blount are likely to confuse the researcher. There were at least two other Jacob Blounts who were contemporaries of the Jacob of this study. Jacob Blount of Tyrrell County was the son of Benjamin Blount [William Saunders, ed., *The Colonial Records of North Carolina* (10 vols. Raleigh, Goldsboro, etc., 1886-1898), II, 227]; Jacob Blount of Beaufort County was the son of John Blount and a nephew of the subject of this study (Deed Book of Beaufort County, IV, 223; Secretary of State's Papers, Beaufort County Tax List for 1764).

¹¹Stephens and Chapman, Blount and Stephens Families, I, 1-69.

¹²North Carolina Wills, XII, 22, will of John Gray of Bertie, September 20, 1745.

¹³*Colonial Records of North Carolina*, VI, 80.



BLOUNT HALL

From Henry T. King, *Sketches of Pitt County*, (Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton), 1911.

Bertie: William (March 26, 1749), Ann (October 3, 1750), and John Gray (September 21, 1752).¹⁴ Just when Jacob and Barbara left Bertie has not been determined. Since the records show that a new justice of the peace was appointed in 1759 in the place of Jacob Blount, who had "left the County," it is evident that it was prior to this date.¹⁵ On September 29, 1755, a Jacob Blount witnessed the sale of Robert West's "plantation old field" on the north side of Contentnea Creek.¹⁶ Since this land was in the area in which Jacob Blount built up his own large possession of land in the years following, it seems to suggest that he was the Jacob mentioned in this study. The suggestion is fortified by the fact that Jacob's uncle, Churchill Reading, was a son-in-law of Robert West.¹⁷

In 1735 Jacob Blount inherited from his uncle, Churchill Reading, 500 acres of land on Contentnea Creek in Craven County.¹⁸ In 1753 he was granted 100 acres on Contentnea, near Hencoop Swamp.¹⁹ The next year he bought another hundred acres²⁰ and in 1757 took out warrants for two plots of 240 acres each lying on the north side of Great Contentnea between John Caldom's line and a creek near Francis Jackson.²¹ Between 1757 and 1783 he bought at intervals plots ranging from 50 to 640 acres²² until by the end of this period he owned in contiguous area, or in fairly close proximity to the original plot, an estate of almost 6,000 acres.²³ As early as 1769 he listed twenty-seven slaves as taxable.²⁴

In 1761 Blount and Richard Blackledge bought a store at the Forks of the Tar River where the Town of Washington now stands.²⁵ In this was laid the basis for a long and close relation between these two families and for one of the largest mercantile businesses, if not the largest, in the early history of North Carolina.²⁶

¹⁴Hill, *The Hill Family*, IV, 2.

¹⁵*Colonial Records of North Carolina*, VI, 80.

¹⁶Craven County Deeds, Powers of Attorneys, Bonds, Inventories, etc., 1745-1759 (North Carolina Department of Archives and History), III, 256.

¹⁷North Carolina Wills, XXVI, 6, will of Churchill Reading.

¹⁸This grant was confused with one bequeathed to Churchill Caldom, so Caldom had the grants exchanged, giving Churchill the land originally assigned to Jacob Blount in Beaufort County transferring Jacob's grant to Craven County on Contentnea Creek.

¹⁹Secretary of State's Papers, Land Entries, 1739-1753.

²⁰Secretary of State's Papers, March 26, 1754.

²¹See grants of land made to Jacob Blount in Craven and Pitt counties, below, pp. 562-563.

²²Keith, *Three North Carolina Blount Brothers in Business and Politics*, 3.

²³Secretary of State's Papers, Tax Lists, 1720-1779.

²⁴Secretary of State's Papers, Tax Lists, 1720-1779.

²⁵Jacob Blount's Daybook, August 14, 1751, John Gray Blount Papers.

²⁶Alice Barnwell Keith, "John Gray and Thomas Blount, Merchants, 1783-1800," *The North Carolina Historical Review*, XXV (April, 1948), 194-205.

Blount was also interested in political affairs and became very active in the colony's preparation for the Revolution. He was a justice of the peace²⁷ and a juror in Craven County in the 1760's and 1770's.²⁸ He represented Craven County in the General Assembly in 1766, 1768, 1769, and 1770-1771.²⁹ He was twice nominated to the Council of State and on at least one occasion was elected, but declined to accept.³⁰ He served on numerous committees and in general played a fairly important part in the work of the General Assembly. He was a friend of John Harvey, the recalcitrant speaker of the House of Commons, and went on Harvey's bond for £10,000 proclamation money.³¹ Although Jacob Blount took part in the battle of Alamance against the Regulators,³² he became very active in the movements against royal authority within the next decade. He was a member of the Provincial Congress at New Bern in April, 1775, of the Third Provincial Congress at Hillsboro, and of the Fourth Provincial Congress at Halifax in April, 1776.³³ While a member of the Provincial Congress at New Bern, he served on a committee to aid in collecting supplies for the support of the sufferers in Boston who were being penalized by the British government.³⁴ While at the Congress at Halifax, he served on the committee to prepare the first state constitution of North Carolina.³⁵ He was a member of the Committee of Safety of the County of Craven and the town of New Bern and was elected to the Committee of Safety of Pitt County. He signed the testimony of the committee which pledged allegiance to the Continental Congress and denied that Parliament or "any member or constitutional branch thereof" had the right to tax or to regulate internal policy.³⁶ He was appointed paymaster for the Second Regiment and later became paymaster for the whole province of North Carolina during the Revolution.³⁷

Blount's interests extended to many phases of community affairs. He was a vestryman in Craven County³⁸ and was among

²⁷*Colonial Records of North Carolina*, IX, 1168; Craven County Apprenticeship Papers, 1748-1779 (North Carolina Department of Archives and History), indenture of April 7, 1761.

²⁸*Colonial Records of North Carolina*, VIII, 528.

²⁹*Colonial Records of North Carolina*, VII, 371; VIII, 106, 141, 145.

³⁰Legislative Papers, House of Commons, December 1, 1785.

³¹*State Records of North Carolina*, XVII, 310; XIX, 465-466; Legislative Papers, November, 1784.

³²Archibald Henderson, "William Blount," *The News and Observer* (Raleigh), March 13, 1938.

³³*Colonial Records of North Carolina*, IX, 1178; X, 164-166, 500-502, 515.

³⁴*Colonial Records of North Carolina*, IX, 72.

³⁵*Colonial Records of North Carolina*, X, 500-502, 515.

³⁶*Colonial Records of North Carolina*, X, 38, 172, 221.

³⁷Commission from Samuel Johnston, Treasurer, February 12, 1777, John Gray Blount Papers.

³⁸*Colonial Records of North Carolina*, VI, 231.

those who subscribed sums of money to build a schoolhouse at New Bern and petitioned the governor to persuade the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts to favor the application of Thomas Tomlison as a teacher.³⁹

Blount Hall, the home of Jacob Blount, was located sixteen miles southwest of Greenville⁴⁰ and, although at first in Craven County, it was later included in Pitt County. He did not remove to Pitt as some have thought. This house, which becomes pretentious only when one considers the difficulties and primitive conditions under which it was constructed, lacked elegance but revealed sturdiness, good structure, and good taste. The fact that it is still standing, although changed in many parts, is a tribute to the soundness of its composition.⁴¹ Remaining portions of broad plank floors, wainscoted walls, and attractive cupboards suggest the quality of life of its better days, when "at all times his [Jacob Blount's] doors were alike open to the poor and to the rich—the distressed, the weary, and the sick traveller [who] were sure to find a home at Blount Hall. . . ."⁴²

Jacob and Barbara had four children, born after their return to Craven, who lived to adulthood: Louisa (January 17, 1755), Reading (February 22, 1757), Thomas (May 10, 1759), and Jacob (November 5, 1760).⁴³ Barbara died on April 8, 1763,⁴⁴ after which Jacob remarried, this time to Hannah Salter Baker, daughter of Colonel Edward Salter and widow of William Baker.⁴⁵ Five children were born of this marriage two of whom lived to maturity: Willie (pronounced Wylie, April 18, 1768)⁴⁶ and Sharpe (April 4, 1771).⁴⁷ Jacob outlived his second wife also and on August 9, 1787, married Mrs. Mary Adams.⁴⁸ Two years after his third marriage, he died of a "nervous fever" at Blount Hall, August 17, 1789.⁴⁹

³⁹*Colonial Records of North Carolina*, VII, 35-36.

⁴⁰*State Records of North Carolina*, XV, 379.

⁴¹See Keith, *Three North Carolina Blount Brothers*, 4-5.

⁴²See Jacob Blount's obituary, below, p. 562.

⁴³There is much confusion concerning the places of birth of the members of the Blount family. Part of this comes from the absence of complete records, but in no small way it is due to the fact that the Craven County residence was incorporated in Pitt County. Haywood says that Reading was born in "that part of Beaufort which was later erected into a new county called Pitt" and Marcus Wright [*Some Account of the Life and Services of William Blount* (Washington, D. C.: E. J. Gray, 1884)] was equally confused.

⁴⁴From Colonel William B. Rodman's chart in the possession of Mr. William B. Rodman of Washington, N. C.

⁴⁵Stephens and Chapman, *Blount and Stephens Families*, 1-69; Hill, *The Hill Family*, IV, 407-411.

⁴⁶Philip M. Hamer, "Willie Blount," *Dictionary of American Biography*, II (1929), 391-392.

⁴⁷Colonel Rodman's chart.

⁴⁸Stephens and Chapman, *Blount and Stephens Families*, 1-69.

⁴⁹Jacob Blount's obituary.

Jacob Blount's biography is not only a record of his own personal achievements, but is also the basis and pattern upon which his sons were to build more spectacular careers. William, John Gray, and Thomas were associated in business and politics and in these fields formed one of the most active and formidable groups in North Carolina.

William was the best known of the sons of Jacob Blount.⁵⁰ Although he was very prominent in business and political circles both within and outside of North Carolina, very little is known of his early life. As a result of this lack of accurate information, he has been the subject of many conflicting statements.⁵¹ It is supposed that he was educated at home, possibly with additional study at New Bern.⁵² He could not be classed with the intelligentsia of his own state in his day, but he was certainly better educated than the majority of the men of his time. He, like the other Blount brothers, manifested a keen interest in learning and in the promotion of education in North Carolina.⁵³ He was named a trustee of the University of North Carolina and of Pitt Academy in Greenville.⁵⁴ He was also a trustee of New Bern Academy⁵⁵ and of Dobbs Academy in Kinston.⁵⁶ He often made financial contributions to schools in North Carolina and showed the same interest in education when he moved to Tennessee. The establishment of Blount College (the nucleus of the University of Tennessee) was in no small part the result of his interest and contributions, of which the name itself is a recognition.⁵⁷

On February 2, 1778, William Blount married Mary Grainger, the daughter of Colonel William Grainger of Wilmington, North Carolina. His many references to her, whom he affectionately

⁵⁰For Sketches of William Blount see Philip M. Hamer, "William Blount," *Dictionary of American Biography*, II (1929), 390; Keith, *Three North Carolina Blount Brothers*, 9-12; Marcus J. Wright, *Some Account of the Life and Services of William Blount*; M. de L. Haywood, "William Blount," in Samuel A'Court Ashe, ed., *Biographical History of North Carolina from Colonial Times to the Present* (8 vols. Greensboro: C. L. Van Noppen, 1905-1917), III, 25-28.

⁵¹Henry T. King [*Sketches of Pitt County* (Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton, 1911, 222)] thought he was probably born in Beaufort County. Blount's son-in-law, P. M. Miller, in a letter to L. C. Draper [*Draper Manuscripts* (State Historical Society of Wisconsin and McClung Collection), 3], said that he was born in Pitt County on the Neuse. R. D. W. Connor [*A Manual of North Carolina* (North Carolina Historical Commission, 1913), 954] thought he was born in Craven County. Stuart Hill says that he was born at Scotch Hall in Craven County.

⁵²William Blount to John Gray Blount, February 8, 1788; Hamer, "William Blount," 390.

⁵³Walter Clark, ed., *The State Records of North Carolina* (20 vols., XI-XXX. Goldsboro, Winston, etc., 1895-1914), XXV, 22.

⁵⁴Legislative Papers, House of Commons, December, 1776.

⁵⁵*State Records of North Carolina*, XXIV, 607.

⁵⁶*State Records of North Carolina*, XXIV, 754.

⁵⁷Stanley J. Folmsbee, "Blount College and the University of Tennessee, 1794-1840" (reprinted from *The East Tennessee Historical Society's Publications*, No. 17, 1945); Edward T. Sanford, *Blount College and the University of Tennessee*, (Knoxville: Published by the University of Tennessee, 1894).

called "Molsey," indicate a happy relationship in this marriage. By her he had eight children to live to maturity.⁵⁸ They probably lived at New Bern during the early years of their married life. He represented New Bern in the General Assembly in 1780-1781.⁵⁹ Not long after this he moved to Piney Grove. The exact location of this place has not been determined, but since in 1779-1780 he had approximately a thousand acres of land surveyed which he subsequently took up, on Great Contentnea Creek in Dobbs County, this seems to be the logical location.⁶⁰ This also conforms to a letter from Hugh Williamson addressed to William Blount at Piney Grove, "near Washington."⁶¹ Letters written by Blount and those addressed to him at Piney Grove from 1782 to 1788⁶² support the belief that this was his residence, although no previous writer has stated this fact. On December 5, 1783, he wrote his brother John Gray Blount,⁶³ "Can't you once more take time to visit Piney Grove on Sunday next but allow yourself time to stay till Tuesday M . . . ?" Letters written from Piney Grove indicate that Blount carried on the usual type of plantation activity found in North Carolina at that time.⁶⁴ The three brothers, William, John Gray, and Thomas built sawmills, a grain mill, and probably a distillery there in the summer of 1783.⁶⁵ Thomas sold his interest to Joseph Palmer early in 1787.⁶⁶ William Blount sold tar which was burned in his kiln⁶⁷ and he probably grew large crops of corn and tobacco, since the census of 1790 accredited him with the ownership of thirty slaves.⁶⁸ John Allen's letters indicate that he was manager of the Piney Grove estate.⁶⁹

⁵⁸Nancy Harvey (who is mentioned frequently in this volume and spent much time at the home of Thomas Blount at Tarborough), married first Henry Toole and second Weeks Hadley of Edgecombe County; Mary L., married Pleasant Miller; William Grainger, who never married; Richard, married Kitty Minor of Montgomery County, Alabama; Jacob; Barbara, married General Edmund P. Gaines; and Eliza, married Dr. Edwin Wiatt. No account of William Blount has been found which mentions his son Blount Blount, who died, October 26, 1790, at Greenville after William had gone to Tennessee. He was mentioned in his aunt's (Louisa Blount Blackledge's) will (see Papers, November 3, 1788, in this volume, and John Gray Blount to William Blount, Greenville, October 26, 1790, John Gray Blount Papers).

⁵⁹*State Records of North Carolina*, XVII, 715.

⁶⁰John Gray Blount Papers, November 4, 1779; March 17, 1780; October 29, 1782; April 10, 1783.

⁶¹See Hugh Williamson to William Blount, November 28, 1783, below, pp. 134-135.

⁶²See letters in this volume.

⁶³*State Records of North Carolina*, XVI, 120; XVII, 477-479. See also letters from William Blount, 1782-1787, in this volume.

⁶⁴William Blount to John Gray Blount, Piney Grove, August 31, 1783.

⁶⁵Thomas Blount to [John Gray Blount], Philadelphia, September 23d, 1783.

⁶⁶Joseph Palmer to John Gray Blount, Piney Grove, January 6, 1787.

⁶⁷William Blount to John Gray Blount, Piney Grove, August 29, 1783.

⁶⁸*Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States Taken in 1790: North Carolina* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1908), 147.

⁶⁹See John Allen to John Gray Blount, Piney Grove, October 20, 1783, below, p. 120.

By 1788 Blount had moved from Piney Grove into Greenville,⁷⁰ a nearby town. His mother-in-law, Mrs. Grainger, made her home with him. After Blount received the appointment of governor of the Territory of the United States South of the River Ohio, Hugh Williamson hoped to buy the Greenville house,⁷¹ but no record of such transaction has been found. Blount's wife and children together with Mrs. Grainger continued to live at Greenville for some months after Blount had gone to the West.

William Blount held political office for a large portion of his adult life. During the American Revolution he served as purchasing agent for Craven County;⁷² paymaster of the Third Regiment of the Continental Troops of the North Carolina Line; paymaster of the North Carolina Militia; and commissioner for settling army accounts of the Continental Troops of the North Carolina Line.⁷³ He was a familiar figure in the General Assembly of his state from 1780 until his removal to Tennessee in 1790. He was a representative in the house of commons in 1780, 1783, and 1784;⁷⁴ served in the senate in 1782, 1788, and 1789⁷⁵ and was speaker of the house of commons in 1784.⁷⁶ He represented North Carolina in Congress, 1782-1787;⁷⁷ was a member of the Constitutional Convention at Philadelphia in 1787⁷⁸ and was a member of the North Carolina convention at Fayetteville, which ratified the Federal Constitution.⁷⁹ He was nominated, but not elected, attorney general of North Carolina in 1782; comptroller of the state in 1784; and governor in 1786. President Washington appointed him governor of the Territory of the United States South of the River Ohio in 1790.⁸⁰ He had served as special agent of North Carolina at the treaty of Hopewell with the Cherokees in 1785 and was made Superintendent of Indian Affairs over the

⁷⁰See letters of William Blount, January 4, June 22, and October 24, 1788, below, pp. 368, 405, 429.

⁷¹Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, Philadelphia, December 29, 1791, John Gray Blount Papers.

⁷²*Colonial Records of North Carolina*, X, 524; *State Records of North Carolina*, XIV, 644-646.

⁷³*State Records of North Carolina*, XXIV, 482-485.

⁷⁴Connor, *Manual*, 567.

⁷⁵Legislative Papers of North Carolina, Senate, May, 1783; *State Records of North Carolina*, XIX, 681-682; Connor, *Manual*, 760, 894.

⁷⁶*State Records of North Carolina*, XVII, 111, 717.

⁷⁷*State Records of North Carolina*, XVI, 90; XVII, 318, 478; XIX, 59, 466, 681-682; XX, 42, 761-762.

⁷⁸*State Records of North Carolina*, XX, 683. William Blount had been appointed by Governor Caswell to go to the convention in his place.

⁷⁹Keith, *Three North Carolina Blount Brothers*, 11; *State Records of North Carolina*, XVII, 57, 330, 465; XVIII, 78, 589; XIX, 59; XX, 40-41.

⁸⁰Clarence E. Carter, editor and compiler, *The Territorial Papers of the United States* (Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office), IV, 19, 24.

Territory South of the River Ohio contemporaneous with his governorship.⁸¹

John Gray Blount was one of the most important figures in North Carolina in his day. Although he never held high office and is less well-known to posterity than either William or Thomas, few men wielded more political influence in his state than he, nor was his judgment and political acumen unknown to national leaders. He was a representative from his county, Beaufort, in the house of commons, 1782-1793,⁸² and served in the senate three terms (1791, 1793, and 1795).⁸³ He was chosen to the Council of State in 1776 and in 1791 and was nominated for this office by the house of commons in 1784 and 1830.⁸⁴ He was appointed to the convention in Annapolis in 1786, but was too ill of a fever to attend.⁸⁵ He was a member of the North Carolina conventions at Hillsboro in 1788 and at Fayetteville in 1789 and played an important part in the decision of the convention of 1789 to ratify the Federal Constitution.⁸⁶ He was a justice of the peace of Beaufort, was commissioner for the Port of Bath⁸⁷ and was also postmaster at Washington from 1791 to 1815.⁸⁸ In spite of the numerous small offices which he held, John Gray's greatest political asset was his private influence. This spread over a wide range as to area and as to classes of people. Those of both high and low estate sought his opinions or help, not only North Carolinians, but national figures as well. Josiah Jones wrote that he would be a candidate if John Gray would support him, since "(you) can do as you please wit this in habents" William Clark said much the same thing with a bit more sophistication: "You are recognized throughout the district to be the political father of the republicans. . . ."⁸⁹ As might be expected, he was both respected and feared. John Gray was a Federalist in the 1780's but

⁸¹*State Records of North Carolina*, XVII, 479; J. G. M. Ramsey, *The Annals of Tennessee* (Philadelphia: Lippincott, Grambo & Co., 1853), 554-557.

⁸²Legislative Papers, April-May, 1783; November, 1784; November 1, 1785; August 1, 1786; January 6, 1787; 1788; December 11-22, 1789; Certificates of Election, December 20, 1793. Connor, *Manual*, 494-495.

⁸³Legislative Papers, Senate, 1791-1792; Legislative Papers (Library of the University of North Carolina), 1795; Connor, *Manual*, 495.

⁸⁴Connor, *Manual*, 421, 434; Legislative Papers, Senate, 1791-1792; Legislative Papers, 1795.

⁸⁵Governor's Papers, State Series (North Carolina Department of Archives and History), XIII (August 7, 1786-March 31, 1787), 45. Ashe erroneously says that he was appointed to the convention at Philadelphia.

⁸⁶*State Records of North Carolina*, XXII, 7, 15, 21, 41; Connor *Manual*, 867; Keith, Three North Carolina Blount Brothers, 323-333.

⁸⁷Legislative Papers, November, 1784; Bath Customs Reports (North Carolina Department of Archives and History), December, 1786, and September, 1787; Legislative Papers, House of Commons, November 26-30, 1789.

⁸⁸W. W. Hawes (First Assistant Postmaster General) to Alice B. Keith, Washington, D. C., March 14, 1940.

⁸⁹Josiah Jones to John Gray Blount, July 14, 1793; William Clark to John Gray Blount, April 25, 1793, John Gray Blount Papers.

he was ready to overthrow them in the late 1790's and took an active part in the move to elect Thomas Jefferson President in 1800.

John Gray's greatest interest was business, and politics was often the handmaid of commercial advancement. In his early life he studied surveying under the Surveyor General to the Crown, Christopher Neale, and for some time followed surveying.⁹⁰ After the Revolution he seems to have taken over the mercantile interest of Jacob Blount at the Forks of the Tar (now Washington, North Carolina) and in 1783, together with his brothers, William and Thomas, formed the business organization, John Gray & Thomas Blount, Merchants, which became one of the largest mercantile concerns of North Carolina. In addition to the main store at Washington, other stores were operated at Tarboro, where Thomas Blount was in charge; at Shell Island, where John Wallace⁹¹ was the proprietor; and at Prospect Mills, where a small unit was set up. In addition to merchandising, the Blount firm carried on a variety of businesses. They had one of the largest shipping interests in the state, and Washington, although an inland port and very difficult of access, soon became an important shipping center. There were a number of wharves, and as early as 1787 William Attmore (a representative of a Philadelphia firm, who came to North Carolina, married the sister of Judge John Sitgreaves, and settled at New Bern) noted that there were "sometimes lying there near 20 sail of sea vessels";⁹² in addition there were many large and small flats which traversed the inland streams of North Carolina. The Blounts owned a number of vessels, some in entirety and others in partnership; some were engaged in trade with Europe, the West Indies, and the coastal area of the United States from Rhode Island to Florida, while other smaller vessels were used as lighters at Shell Island or on the inland waterways. The heavy sand bar at Ocracoke, which almost encircles the coast of North Carolina, prevented the large sea-going vessels from entering the harbors when loaded.⁹³ Consequently, the Blounts and John Wallace built a tavern house at Shell Island, inside the Bar, and not only maintained large naval

⁹⁰Lida Tunstall Rodman, "Residence of John Gray Blount, Esq., Built in 1778—Taken Down—1923 Washington, N. C.," *North Carolina Booklet*, XXII (July-October, 1922, January-April, 1923), 49.

⁹¹John Wallace was dubbed "Governor."

⁹²Lida T. Rodman, ed., "The Journal of a Tour to North Carolina by William Attmore, 1787," *James Sprunt Historical Publications*, XVII (1922), No. 2, 28.

⁹³Charles Christopher Crittenden, *The Commerce of North Carolina, 1763-1789* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1936), 4.

supplies in this tavern but also kept a number of small vessels (lighters) in the waters there. When a vessel approached which, because of its heavy load, could not pass over the bar, the small vessels in the charge of skilled pilots would go out and by taking part of the cargo would enable the larger vessel to clear the sand beds and enter the port.

In addition to their mercantile interests, the Blounts were among the greatest land speculators in American history. Land speculation was one of the favored enterprises of the time and included most of the important political and financial leaders. George Washington, Patrick Henry, Robert Morris, Judge James Wilson, and Timothy Pickering are only a few of the imposing list of national figures and the local tabulation would be quite as extensive and of similar caliber. This interest involved the Blounts in many difficulties, made them many enemies, and in some instances cast a stigma on their reputation.

In addition to merchandising, shipping, and land speculation, the Blounts carried on varied lesser businesses. All of the brothers except, possibly, Jacob, were engaged in agriculture; then there were "mills—sawmills, grist mills, etc.; tanner; cotton gins; slave-trade; and speculation in money and certificates. Though each type of business was conducted on a relatively small scale, they together represent an important and interesting adjunct of the firm's functions."⁹⁴ Some of these businesses were important for society in that they were pioneering ventures, such as the making of nails in their nailery, or in that they furnished important services for the community, such as the carrying of the mail which they had done for a number of years.

John Gray was the general manager of the business and his opinions were sought and his decision was generally followed. Yet with all of his power, he does not seem to have ignored the other brothers in the business. Suggestions made by them were given consideration and often accepted. Many of their undertakings stemmed from the fertile brain of William Blount, who had a tremendous amount of imagination and lacked the inhibitions of Thomas Blount, John Gray, like his father and other brothers, showed keen interest in community affairs, particularly in education. He was a trustee of several schools, including the Uni-

⁹⁴Keith, *Three North Carolina Blount Brothers*, 59-60.

⁹⁵*Raleigh Register*, May 12, 1801; *State Records of North Carolina*, XVIII, 259; John Owen to John Gray Blount, Fayetteville, January 30, 1813; James Sanford to John Gray Blount, May 25, 1827, John Gray Blount Papers.

versity of North Carolina and Washington Academy at Washington, North Carolina.⁹⁵ He kept blooded horses⁹⁶ and his interest in agriculture was both practical and scientific. He maintained a force of at least seventy slaves⁹⁷ and gave his personal attention to methods and their results in crop production. In 1827 he became a member of the Committee of Correspondence of the Agricultural Board of North Carolina,⁹⁸ which was designed to stimulate and advance this enterprise by the process of giving advice by correspondence between the farmers and members of the Committee.

John Gray's interest in western lands probably dates from the time when as a young man he accompanied Daniel Boone on his explorations and in the settlement of Boonesborough.⁹⁹ He along with the Hendersons and other North Carolinians was numbered among the original claimants to Transylvania lands. In 1780, Edward Jones wrote John Gray that he had been "pestered with powers of attorney from different people amongst the sub-purchasers of Henderson's Transylvania lands," and that he had investigated the matter and found that "James Hogg, yourself, Mr. Shoolbred and a name I don't now recollect (and have not my memorandum book by me) own and original share. . . ."¹⁰⁰

John Gray married Mary ("Polly") Harvey, the daughter of Colonel Miles Harvey of Perquimans County, North Carolina, on September 17, 1778.¹⁰¹ He took his bride to live at the Forks of the Tar River, where four years later, he was to become one of the commissioners chosen by the Assembly to establish a town.¹⁰² This town was established and given the name of Washington and at this town he lived his long life and died on January 4, 1833.

Reading Blount had the most distinguished military record of the brothers. He was elected a captain at nineteen and during the Revolution was promoted to the rank of major and served in the Second Continental Regiment. In 1800 he was elected major general of the 1st. division of infantry of the North Carolina militia

⁹⁵George Ogg to John Gray Blount, June 28, 1783 (See below, p. 65); L. L. Bell to John Gray Blount, July 28, 1809, John Gray Blount Papers.

⁹⁶*Heads of Families at the First Census*, 126.

⁹⁷Joseph Gales to John Gray Blount, Raleigh, March 20, 1827, John Gray Blount Papers.

⁹⁸Rodman, "Residence of John Gray Blount, Esq.," 46-52. See also letters of Samuel Henderson and William Bailey Smith in this volume.

⁹⁹Edward Jones to John Gray Blount, January 29, 1780, Fayetteville. See also letters from Thomas Hart in this volume.

¹⁰⁰Perquimans [County] marriage bonds (North Carolina Department of Archives and History).

¹⁰²*State Records of North Carolina*, XXIV, 458.

by the legislature.¹⁰³ He and his father were original members of the North Carolina Society of the Cincinnati and Reading was one of the three delegates chosen to represent the Society at the Philadelphia Convention.¹⁰⁴

He never played a very important rôle in politics. He was a representative from Pitt County to the House of Commons in 1787,¹⁰⁵ and was for some time entry taker for Beaufort County.¹⁰⁶ He also served as a justice of the peace in Beaufort.¹⁰⁷ After the Revolution, he seems to have settled down to the life of a planter. He was married to Lucy Harvey, a half sister of John Gray's wife and the daughter of Colonel Miles Harvey of Perquimans County.¹⁰⁸

Thomas Blount was closely associated with his two older brothers, William and John Gray, not only in business and politics, but in the close personal unity which characterized the associations of the three. He served in the American Revolution when only sixteen years old, was a major of the militia at the battle of Eutaw Springs in 1781, and later became major general of North Carolina militia. In 1788 he was assistant paymaster.¹⁰⁹

He was twice married, first to Martha Baker, daughter of Colonel Benjamin Baker,¹¹⁰ on June 4, 1782, and after her death to Mary ("Jackie") Sumner,¹¹¹ daughter of General Jethro Sumner of Revolutionary fame, in November, 1796. Martha Baker Blount died March 28, 1783, leaving an infant son who died shortly thereafter.¹¹² He had no other children. William Blount's daughters, Nancy Harvey and Mary, spent much time at his home. Thomas, like John Gray and William, had several wards, some of whom apparently lived in his home. The Blounts bought lots near the river on Granville Street in "Tarborough Town" in 1781. One of them was sold later, but two were retained (#102 and #103) and somewhat later (October, 1786) two other lots,

¹⁰³For a sketch of him see M. de L. Haywood, "Reading Blount," in Ashe, *Biographical History*, I, 161-163; Legislative Papers, Senate, December 28, 1785.

¹⁰⁴"The North Carolina Society of the Cincinnati," *The American Historical Magazine*, III (March, 1908), 193. Jethro Sumner, the father-in-law of Thomas Blount, was the first president of the Cincinnati of North Carolina.

¹⁰⁵Connor, *Manual*, 760.

¹⁰⁶Reading Blount's entry book, Beaufort County Records (North Carolina Department of Archives and History).

¹⁰⁷Legislative Papers, House of Commons, November 26-30, 1789.

¹⁰⁸Rodman, "Journal of a Tour," 5-46.

¹⁰⁹*Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1927* (United States Government Printing Office, 1928), 712; *Biographical Congressional Record, 1774-1911* (Washington, D. C., 1913), 483.

¹¹⁰Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, Tarborough, April 3, 1782; Martha Baker to Mrs. Mary Blount, No[vember], 1778, below, p. 6.

¹¹¹*North Carolina Journal* (Halifax), November 21, 1796; Kemp P. Battle, "The Life and Services of Brigadier General Jethro Sumner," *North Carolina Booklet*, VIII (October, 1908), No. 2, 139.

¹¹²Reading Blount to John Gray Blount, Blount Hall, April 21, 1783, below, pp. 54-55.

#100 and #101 were bought for 302 and 580 pounds respectively.¹¹³ These two lots were the same size, but #100 was confiscated land, which accounts for the cheaper price. In 1795 Charles Gerrard bought an additional 296 acres with a half interest in a mill and mill site for Thomas Blount. This made his line "exactly straight from the corner of the Town bounds at the mill [and] runs to Lewis Irwins land bounded by the Town all the way"¹¹⁴ Thomas Blount repaired the house in 1783, preparatory to the coming of his bride, and made it one of the best in the county (see below, p. 23). The house is still standing and in 1934 was taken over by the town of Tarboro for a library and community house. It is in the heart of the town, where it occupies a full block. The "timbers are of heart pine, the porch is new, and some inside partitions are changed, [but] otherwise the original house still stands."¹¹⁵

Thomas was closely identified with the life of Tarboro. In 1785 he was one of the town commissioners¹¹⁶ and is said to have been the first president of the branch of the state bank located in the town.¹¹⁷ He was in charge of the Blount store there and assumed responsibility for it as well as assisting John Gray in the merchandise and shipping business at Washington and Shell Castle. He was often sent out to investigate markets or to make contracts for the mercantile business and such excursions took him into northern cities and at one time (the summer of 1785) to Europe, where he spent some time.

He, like his brothers, owned agricultural lands. His lay on the Neuse River¹¹⁸ and he probably cultivated them, as he had twenty-seven slaves listed in 1790.¹¹⁹ He also owned at least one racing horse and probably others, for when he was planning to enter his horse in the races in 1802, he said, "My principal groom" is sick, implying that he had more than one groom, which would hardly have been necessary for only one horse.¹²⁰ He also spoke of his well-matched grays.¹²¹

¹¹³Deed from Edward Hall to John Gray Blount (executed in the August court of 1781); land warrants, John Gray Blount Papers.

¹¹⁴[Charles Gerrard to John Gray Blount], Tarborough, July 20, 1795.

¹¹⁵Dr. J. P. Keech to Alice B. Keith, Tarboro, April 12, 1934.

¹¹⁶*Raleigh Register and North-Carolina Gazette*, February 21, 1812, quoting *The National Intelligencer*, July 11, 1812; *Biographical Directory of the American Congress*, 712.

¹¹⁷Joseph B. Cheshire, *Nonnulla* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1930), 4n.

¹¹⁸He mentions the possibility of selling his land a number of times, but the conclusion as to cultivation is based on the number of his slaves.

¹¹⁹*Heads of Families at the First Census*, 54.

¹²⁰Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, September 28, 1802, John Gray Blount Papers.

¹²¹Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, March 27, 1789, John Gray Blount Papers.

Thomas Blount was elected trustee of the University of North Carolina on August 3, 1792, and served almost continually from then until his death in 1812. He served on the building committee, the library committee, the appointment committee, the University land committee, and the examination committees. At one time he purchased books in the amount of \$73.63 under the direction of the library committee.¹²²

The primary interest of Thomas Blount was politics. He, like his brother William, spent most of adult life in public office. He was a justice of the peace of Edgecombe County in 1790;¹²³ member of the House of Commons of North Carolina, 1788-1789,¹²⁴ 1790, and 1792;¹²⁵ and a member of the Fayetteville Convention of 1789. He also served on the commission¹²⁶ to locate the capital of the state in 1792.¹²⁷ He was North Carolina's Congressman for approximately eleven years between 1793 and the time of his death in 1812.¹²⁸

Thomas was apparently the most lovable of the Blount brothers. He was certainly the favorite of John Gray, to whom he gave unstinted although quite often awed devotion. Their financial interests were so closely interlocked that it is questionable whether Thomas ever knew exactly what was his and what was John Gray's; in fact their relationship was more like that of father and son than like brothers. Charles Gerrard, who often ran the Tarboro business when Thomas was in Congress, once wrote John Gray "the property appears to be so much blended that I am at a loss to know how to charge the Tax, whether to J. G. & Thos. Blount or to Thos. Blount only."¹²⁹

Jacob Blount, the youngest son of Jacob and Barbara Blount, was born in 1760.¹³⁰ He first married Nancy Collins,¹³¹ the only

¹²²Minutes of the Board of Trustees of the University of North Carolina (University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill), August 3, 1792; December 8, 1795; July 15, 1796; December 3, 5, 8, 1798; January 9, July 10-11, December 9, 1799; January 1, 1802; January 1, 1803; December 4, 7, 1804; January 1, 1806; January 1, 1808; December 22, 1809; December 12, 1810. It is possible that his services were continuous. The minutes do not give full information.

¹²³Legislative Papers, House of Commons, 1790.

¹²⁴*State Records of North Carolina*, XXI, 193, 433. Blount's faithfulness is attested by the fact that in one session he attended fifty-one days, a record surpassed only by that of the clerk.

¹²⁵Legislative Papers, December, 1790; November 14, 1792.

¹²⁶*State Records of North Carolina*, XX, 37, 47, 48, 51.

¹²⁷Legislative Papers, House of Commons, 1792.

¹²⁸Thomas Denton McCormick, "Thomas Blount," *Dictionary of American Biography*, II (1929), 389-390.

¹²⁹May 25, 1788, John Gray Blount Papers.

¹³⁰Hill, *The Hill Family*, II, 179.

¹³¹*State Gazette of North Carolina*, February 26, 1789.

daughter of Josiah Collins, Esq., a prominent merchant, shipper and landowner of Edenton, and after her death Susan Harvey (Mrs. Augustus Harvey), whom he called "Sukey."¹³² When a young man, Jacob often worked for his older brothers in the mercantile and shipping business at Washington and Tarboro. After his marriage to Nancy Collins, he went to live at Edenton and engaged in business with his father-in-law.¹³³ He was trained in the mercantile and shipping business while at Washington, and, as was customary with their apprentices, went as supercargo for his brothers to the West Indies. He also made a voyage in 1798, after his marriage to Susan Harvey. He hoped to clear four or five thousand dollars on this trip, which he estimated would take about six weeks.¹³⁴ Jacob gained some prestige in Edenton and served on the building commission for Edenton Academy, of which he was also a trustee.¹³⁵ He died in less than a year (January 22, 1801)¹³⁶ following the death of his brother William.

Willie (pronounced Wylie) Blount was the older of the two surviving sons of Jacob Blount by his second wife, Hannah Salter Baker Blount. He was born at Blount Hall, Craven County, April 18, 1768.¹³⁷ He had better opportunities for formal education than did the other brothers. He counted among his teachers President John Witherspoon of Princeton; Dr. J. Kemp at Columbia College; and Judge John Sitgreaves of New Bern, with whom he read law.¹³⁸ His attendance at college seems to have been made possible by his older brothers, particularly William, with whom he was a favorite.¹³⁹ When William Blount went to Tennessee Willie joined him and became his private secretary. From this time until his death he resided in that area. His devotion and loyalty to his brother William never faltered and helped to shape the course of his life.

He was twice married and had two daughters and in 1831

¹³²Augustus Harvey was the half brother of Mrs. John Gray Blount and a brother of Lucy, Mrs. Reading Blount. Edna Guilford Denson, "Family Sketches," *The Public Forum*, June 19, 1939.

¹³³Keith, *Three North Carolina Blount Brothers*, 20.

¹³⁴He was probably commanding his own schooner, as he considered it too valuable to be lost. Jacob Blount to Sukey [Susan Blount], Edenton, June 26, 1789, John Gray Blount Papers.

¹³⁵List of trustees of Edenton Academy, February 15, 1800, Pettigrew Papers, I, 1772-1800 (North Carolina Department of Archives and History).

¹³⁶Alex. Miller to the Reverend Charles Pettigrew, Edenton, January 22, 1801 (Pettigrew Papers, Southern Historical Collection, Library of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill). Pettigrew was asked to conduct the funeral.

¹³⁷John H. Wheeler, *Reminiscences and Memoirs of North Carolina and Eminent North Carolinians* (Columbus, Ohio; Columbus Printing Works, 1884), 1xi.

¹³⁸Willie Blount's Memoirs, Draper Manuscripts (McClung Collection), IV, 90.

¹³⁹[William Blount] to John Gray Blount, February 8, 1788.

boasted of his five grandchildren. His first wife was Lucinda Baker, daughter of Major John and Ann Norfleet Baker of Bertie County, North Carolina;¹⁴⁰ the second, whom he married on February 19, 1812, was Mary White,¹⁴¹ widow of Hugh White of Knoxville.

He was one of the first superior court judges of the new state of Tennessee; a member of the legislature; three times (the constitutional limit) governor of Tennessee; and an active member of the constitutional convention of 1834.¹⁴² He was a thorough-going Democrat; and a great admirer of Thomas Jefferson, believing that the people under his administration had great cause for thankfulness and that Jefferson himself deserved a high place of ease "in the mansions above."¹⁴³ Andrew Jackson also came in for full praise; Blount was convinced that Peggy Eaton was "a virtuous, intelligent & amiable woman" and that Jackson deserved commendation for his stand in that affair.¹⁴⁴

Blount spent much of his later years at his place, "Bakerdon," in Montgomery County.¹⁴⁵ He became extremely religious in his later years and seems to have employed himself with writing his opinions on this subject as well as an attempt to make a digest of his state and of the United States constitutions with a general survey of world governments.

Philip M. Hamer thinks that Willie Blount "was a man of only ordinary abilities. . . . Yet he was patriotic and honest. Agreeable, even affectionate, and at heart a democrat, he had many personal friends and few, if any, enemies."¹⁴⁶

Sharpe Blount, the youngest surviving son of Jacob and Hannah Salter Baker, was more typically a planter than any other of the Blount brothers. He was born at Blount Hall in 1771¹⁴⁷ and after the death of his father seems to have fallen heir to this property. He married Penelope ("Penny") Little, daughter of Colonel George Little of Hertford County, in 1794.¹⁴⁸ Not much

¹⁴⁰Philip M. Hamer, "Willie Blount," *Dictionary of American Biography*, II (1929), 391; Hill, *The Hill Family*, II, 179-180; Willie Blount to Olivia Blount, Bakerdon, January 18, 1826, John Gray Blount Papers. The Bakers had probably moved to Tennessee prior to Willie's marriage.

¹⁴¹*Raleigh Register*, February 19, 1812.

¹⁴²Willie Blount to Colonel Meigs, March 8, 1810 (Willie Blount Collection, Manuscript Department, Duke University Library, Durham).

¹⁴³Willie Blount to John Gray Blount, Turnersville, Robertson County [Tennessee], October 16, 1831, John Gray Blount Papers.

¹⁴⁴See Willie Blount's letters in the John Gray Blount Papers, and Hamer, "Willie Blount."

¹⁴⁵See Willie Blount's writings in the Papers of the Tennessee Historical Society (Tennessee Historical Society Collection, Nashville, Tennessee), and Willie Blount to John Gray Blount, October 16, 1831, in the John Gray Blount Papers.

¹⁴⁶Hamer, "Willie Blount," 391-392.

¹⁴⁷Hill, *The Hill Family*, II, 180.

¹⁴⁸See Sharpe Blount's letters in this volume and in the John Gray Blount Papers.

is known of the personal life of this member of the family. He is mentioned a number of times in the John Gray Blount Papers, usually in some connection as a planter. The extent of his agricultural interest is indicated by the fact that the Census of 1790 accredited him with the possession of forty-seven slaves.¹⁴⁹ He quite often assisted his older brothers in the transaction of some business undertaking and more often called upon them for some advice or assistance in his own business.¹⁵⁰ He had removed to Blount Hall after his father's death and continued to reside there until his own death in 1810.¹⁵¹ Following this, Blount Hall was occupied for some time by Sharpe Blount's son, George Little Blount.

Jacob and Barbara Blount had two daughters, Ann and Louisa. Ann married James Harvey, the fourth son of Colonel John Harvey, in 1774.¹⁵² Ann was soon left a widow and frequently visited different members of her family, particularly in times of distress. She lived with Thomas Blount after the death of his first wife,¹⁵³ went to her brother Jacob's family after his death, and went to Tennessee to be with the family of William Blount and there remained until her own death, May 21, 1805.¹⁵⁴ It is said that she made the entire journey from Pitt County to Knoxville, Tennessee, on horseback.¹⁵⁵ She had considerable business interest. Her taxes for 1779 were listed for 10,584 pounds and according to the Census of 1790 she had eighteen slaves.¹⁵⁶

Little is known of the second daughter, Louisa Blount. She married Richard Blackledge of Washington, North Carolina, on October 16, 1786,¹⁵⁷ and moved to Tarboro, where her home became the center of social life. William Attmore was entertained there when he made a tour of North Carolina in 1787. He seems

¹⁴⁹*Heads of Families at the First Census*, 148.

¹⁵⁰Keith, *Three North Carolina Blount Brothers*, 22.

¹⁵¹William Blackledge to John Gray Blount, January 6, 1810, John Gray Blount Papers.

¹⁵²Marriage records of Perquimans County, April 5, 1774 (North Carolina Department of Archives and History); Hill, *The Hill Family*, II, 177.

¹⁵³Thomas Blount to [John Gray Blount], London, February 3, 1787, below, pp. 244-246.

¹⁵⁴P. M. Miller to John Gray Blount, Knoxville, June 3, 1805, John Gray Blount Papers.

¹⁵⁵Rodman, "Journal of a Tour," 42n.

¹⁵⁶Legislative Papers, tax lists of Beaufort County, 1799; *Heads of Families at the First Census*, 148.

¹⁵⁷Craven County marriage bonds (North Carolina Department of Archives and History), October 16, 1786. Richard Blackledge was a well-to-do merchant of Washington, North Carolina. He inherited wealth from his father, Richard Blackledge, and engaged in a number of business enterprises for himself. According to his obituary, "He was one of the first settlers of this town [Washington]; and his mercantile enterprise and industry was (*sic*) a principle cause of so rapid an improvement of this place that in less than 17 years from its first establishment as a town, the port of Washington owned more tons of shipping than any other port of the State." *Raleigh Register*, September 2, 1805.

to have been favorably impressed with Mrs. Blackledge, whom he called "an elegant woman."¹⁵⁸

The wide and varied experiences of the large and active family of Jacob Blount support the conclusion of one of its chroniclers who thought that he (Jacob) "through his sons, gave the name its prestige in the Southern States. . . ."¹⁵⁹

¹⁵⁸Rodman, "Journal of a Tour," 17.

¹⁵⁹Zella Armstrong, *Notable Southern Families* (Chattanooga, Tenn. The Lookout Publishing Company, 1918), I, 34.

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST

of the

JOHN GRAY BLOUNT PAPERS (TO 1790) INCLUDED IN THIS VOLUME

LETTERS

LETTERS FOR 1774-1782

1. Jacob Blount to James Green, January 23, 1774.
2. John Harvey to John Gray Blount, February 1, 1775.
3. William Blount to John Gray Blount, June 4, 1777.
4. William Blount to John Gray Blount, July 12, 1777.
5. Martha Baker to Mrs. Mary Blount, November (n. d.), 1778.
6. Thomas Hart to William Blount, January 25, 1780.
7. Thomas Hart to Thomas Blount, January 28, 1780.
8. Thomas Hart to John Gray Blount, January 29, 1780.
9. Fragment of a letter from Martha Baker to Mrs. Mary Blount, October 11, 1780.
10. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, February 1, 1781.
11. William Savage to John Gray Blount, July 23, 1781.
12. Reading Blount to John Gray Blount, July 25, 1781.
13. Reading Blount to [Jethro Sumner] copy, August 9, 1781.
14. Thomas Blount to William Blount, August 22, 1781.
15. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, September 4, 1781.
16. Jacob Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount, September 24, 1781.
17. William Savage to John Gray Blount, October 29, 1781.
18. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, April 3, 1782.
19. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, April 21, 1782.
20. William Bailey Smith to John Gray Blount, May 6, 1782.
21. Reading Blount to John Gray Blount, August 5, 1782.
22. Samuel Henderson to John Gray Blount, August 12, 1782.
23. William R. Davie to John Gray Blount, September 1, 1782.
24. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, September 13, 1782.
25. Matthew Emanuel to John Gray and William Blount, September 25, 1782.

LETTERS FOR 1783

1. William Blount to John Gray Blount, January 7, 1783.
2. Peter Mallett to John Gray Blount, January 10, 1783.
3. Peter Mallett to John Gray Blount, January 16, 1783.

4. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, January 19, 1783.
5. Valentine Jasper to John Gray Blount, January 25, 1783.
6. Peter Mallett to John Gray Blount, January 29, 1783.
7. James Hopton to William Hopton, February 4, 1783.
8. Christopher Neale to John Gray Blount, February 7, 1783.
9. Archibald Maclaine to John Gray Blount, February 23, 1783.
10. Daniel Mallett to John Gray Blount, February 24, 1783.
11. Peter Mallett to John Gray Blount, February 25, 1783.
12. William Campbell to John Gray Blount, February 26, 1783.
13. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, March 2, 1783.
14. William Campbell to John Gray Blount, [March 2, 1783].
15. Mallett & Jewkes to John Gray Blount, March 7, 1783.
16. Peter Mallett to John Gray Blount, with an enclosure, March 10, 1783.
17. Peter Mallett to John Gray Blount, March 10, 1783.
18. Peter Mallett to John Gray Blount, March 10, 1783.
19. Lord Charles Montague to John Gray Blount, March 15, 1783.
20. Daniel Earl to John Gray Blount, March 15, 1783.
21. Bingham Ingles & Gilmer to John Gray Blount, March 20, 1783.
22. John Gray Blount to Lord Charles Montague, March 20, 1783.
23. Ant.^e Fran.^s Salucci and Son to John Gray Blount, April 1, 1783.
24. James Dalton to Jacob Blount, April 6, 1783.
25. Reading Blount to John Gray Blount, April 21, 1783.
26. Van Schellenbeck & Mailhol to Jacob Blount, May 10, 1783.
27. Peter Mallett to John Gray Blount, May 13, 1783.
28. William Blount to John Donelson [copy], May 17, 1783.
29. Peter Mallett to William and John Gray Blount, May 26, 1783.
30. Donald Baine to John Gray Blount, May 26, 1783.
31. Miles Harvey to John Gray Blount, May 27, 1783.
32. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, June 7, 1783.
33. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, June 11, 1783.
34. Isaac Ogden to John Gray Blount, June 18, 1783.
35. William Blount to John Gray Blount, June 20, 1783.
36. Jacob Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount, June 23, 1783.
37. Peter Mallett to John Gray Blount, June 23, 1783.
38. George Ogg to John Gray Blount, June 28, 1783.
39. Peter Mallett to John Gray Blount, June 30, 1783.
40. Henry Tuley to John Gray Blount, July 4, 1783.
41. Thomas Polk to William Blount, July 5, 1783.
42. Peter Mallett to John Gray Blount, July 7, 1783.
43. Peter Mallett to John or Thomas Blount, July 18, 1783.
44. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, July 18, 1783.
45. John Cooper to Messrs. Blount & Blackledge, July 24, 1783.
46. Peter Mallett to John Gray Blount, July 28, 1783.
47. James Barr to John Gray & Thomas Blount & Co., August 4, 1783.
48. Hugh Williamson to William Blount, August 4, 1783.
49. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, August 4, 1783.
50. James Iredell to Thomas Blount, August 5, 1783.
51. James Barr to John Gray Blount & Co., August 7, 1783.
52. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, August 8, 1783.

53. William Blount to John Gray Blount, August 14, 1783.
54. John Nelson to John Gray Blount, August 17, 1783.
55. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, August 17, 1783.
56. Thomas Blount to John Gray & Thomas Blount, August 20, 1783.
57. William Blount to John Gray Blount, August 21, 1783.
58. Hartwell Cocke to John Gray Blount, August 27, 1783.
59. Reading Blount to John Gray Blount, August 28, 1783.
60. James Green, Jr., to Commissioners of Port Bath, August 28, 1783.
61. William Blount to Richard Dobbs Spaight [copy], August 29, 1783.
62. [Speyers] Singleton to John Gray Blount, August 29, 1783.
63. William Blount to John Gray Blount, August 29, 1783.
64. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, August 30, 1783.
65. Jacob Blount to William Blount, August 30, 1783.
66. William Blount to John Gray Blount, August 31, 1783.
67. Micaj Thomas to Thomas Blount, August 31, 1783.
68. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, September 2, 1783.
69. William Blount to John Gray Blount, September 4, 1783.
70. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, September 9, 1783.
71. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, September 11, 1783.
72. William Blount to John Gray Blount, September 12, 1783.
73. William Blount to John Gray Blount, September 13, 1783.
74. Joseph Putnam to William Blount, September 19, 1783.
75. William Blount to Taylor and Rogers (copy), September 19, 1783.
76. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, September 23, 1783.
77. John Donelson to William Blount, September 24, 1783.
78. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, September 26, 1783.
79. Alex Martin to John Gray & Thomas Blount, Merchants, September 27, 1783.
80. Thomas Henderson to John Gray & Thomas Blount, Merchants, September 29, 1783.
81. Thomas Blount to John Gray & Thomas Blount, Merchants, September 29, 1783.
82. John B. Ashe to John Gray Blount (n. d.).
83. Benjamin Hawkins to John Gray Blount, October 4, 1783.
84. John Whitaker to John G. Blount, October 9, 1783.
85. James Barr to John Gray & Thomas Blount, Merchants, October 15, 1783.
86. Stephen Brooks to John Gray Blount, October 15, 1783.
87. John Allen to John Gray Blount, October 20, 1783.
88. James Barr to John Gray & Thomas Blount, October 20, 1783.
89. Extract of letter from Casper Voght & Company to the President of Congress (forwarded to John Gray Blount by Benjamin Hawkins), October 22, 1783.
90. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, October 25, 1783.
91. Alexander Martin to William Blount, October 28, 1783.
92. J. P. Putnam to William Blount, November 1, 1783.
93. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, November 1, 1783.
94. William Blount to John Gray Blount, November 6, 1783.
95. Benjamin Hawkins to John Gray & Thomas Blount, November 7, 1783.

96. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, November 8, 1783.
97. Samuel Cary to Hugh Williamson, November 15, 1783.
98. James Barr to John Gray & Thomas Blount, November 18, 1783.
99. William Blount to James Barr, November 27, 1783.
100. William Blount to Ramsay & Coxe (copy), November 27, 1783.
101. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, November 27, 1783.
102. Hugh Williamson to William Blount, November 28, 1783.
103. John Coart to John Gray Blount, December 4, 1783.
104. Hugh Williamson to William Blount, December 5, 1783.
105. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, December 5, 1783.
106. William Blount to John Gray Blount, December 5, 1783.
107. James Barr to John Gray & Thomas Blount, Merchants, December 16, 1783.
108. James Barr to William Blount, December 16, 1783.
109. G. Denisen to Messrs. Blount & Blackledge, December 19, 1783.
110. John Gray & Thomas Blount to Hugh Williamson (copy), December 20, 1783.
111. James Barr to John Gray & Thomas Blount, Merchants, December 23, 1783.
112. Richard Dobbs Spaight to William Blount, December 26, 1783.
113. Augustus Harvey to John Gray Blount, December 31, 1783.

LETTERS FOR 1784-1786

1. Alexander Martin to William Blount, January 2, 1784.
2. William Blount to John Gray Blount, January 6, 1784.
3. Hugh Williamson to John Jay (copy), January 14, 1784.
4. Hugh Williamson to John Gray & Thomas Blount, Merchants, February 16, 1784.
5. Casper Voght & Company to John Gray & Thomas Blount, Merchants, February 20, 1784.
6. William Blount to [Joseph Martin], March 9, 1784.
7. Leonard Dessaux to John Gray Blount, April 8, 1784.
8. Richard Dobbs Spaight to John Gray Blount, April 8, 1784.
9. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, April 9, 1784.
10. William Blount to Arnold Delius, April 10, 1784.
11. Tyler & Mumford to John Gray & Thomas Blount, Merchants, April 10, 1784.
12. William Blount to John Gray Blount, April 21, 1784.
13. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, May 21, 1784.
14. William Blount to John Donelson, Joseph Martin, and John Sevier (copy), May 31, 1784.
15. William Blount to Lachlan McIntosh, *et als.* (copy), May 31, 1784.
16. Henry Montfort to William Blount, June 10, 1784.
17. Thomas Williams to John Gray Blount, July 14, 1784.
18. Thomas Williams to John Gray Blount, August 12, 1784.
19. Tyler & Mumford to Thomas Blount & John Gray Blount, August 17, 1784.
20. Joseph Martin to William Blount, August 28, 1784.

21. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, September 6, 1784.
22. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, September 13, 1784.
23. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, September 27, 1784.
24. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, October 6, 1784.
25. Nathanael Greene to John Gray Blount, October 25, 1784.
26. Thomas Bonner to John Gray Blount, November 4, 1784.
27. Richard Dobbs Spaight to John Gray & Thomas Blount, November 9, 1784.
28. Tyler & Mumford to John Gray & Thomas Blount, Merchants, November 20, 1784.
29. William Blount to Abner Nash (copy), December 2, 1784.
30. Alexander Martin to John Gray & Thomas Blount, Merchants, December 3, 1784.
31. Alexander Martin to John Gray Blount, December 4, 1784.
32. Abner Nash to William Blount, December 6, 1784.
33. Thomas Williams to John Gray Blount, December 8, 1784.
34. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, January 2, 1785.
35. De Marbois to John Gray & Thomas Blount, Merchants, January 15, 1785.
36. Stuart & Barr to John Gray & Thomas Blount, Merchants, February 23, 1785.
37. Alexander Martin to John Gray Blount, February 26, 1785.
38. William Blount to John Gray Blount, March 4, 1785.
39. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, March 15, 1785.
40. Richard Dobbs Spaight to William Blount, with postscript by William Blount, March 29, 1785.
41. Elijah Robertson to William Blount, May 2, 1785.
42. John Strother to John Gray Blount, May 3, 1785.
43. De Marbois to John Gray & Thomas Blount, May 19, 1785.
44. Thomas Blount to John Gray & Thomas Blount, May 23, 1785.
45. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, May 25, 1785.
46. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, June 10, 1785.
47. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, June 25, 1785.
48. John Sitgreaves to John Gray Blount, July 15, 1785.
49. Richard Caswell to the Marquis de Marbois (copy), July 23, 1785.
50. William Blount to John Gray Blount, August 5, 1785.
51. Richard Caswell to William Blount, August 16, 1785.
52. Richard Caswell to John Gray Blount, August 16, 1785.
53. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, August 21, 1785.
54. Thomas Blount to John Gray & Thomas Blount, Merchants, August 25, 1785.
55. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, August 29, 1785.
56. Richard Caswell to William Blount, September 3, 1785.
57. Thomas Blount to John Gray & Thomas Blount, Merchants, September 5, 1785.
58. William Blount to John Gray Blount, September 12, 1785.
59. John Sitgreaves to John Gray Blount, September 25, 1785.
60. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, September 26, 1785.

61. Thomas Blount to John Gray & Thomas Blount, Merchants, September 26, 1785.
62. John Sevier to William Blount, October 7, 1785.
63. Poindexter Tulloch to John Gray Blount, October 18, 1785.
64. Lachlan McIntosh to William Blount (n. d.).
65. Thomas Blount to John Gray & Thomas Blount, Merchants, October 18, 1785.
66. John Sitgreaves to John Gray Blount, October 30, 1785.
67. Thomas Blount to John Gray & Thomas Blount, Merchants, November 7, 1785.
68. John Boswell to William Blount (copy), November 26, 1785.
69. William Blount to John Gray Blount, December 29, 1785.
70. William Blount to William Hay (copy), January 27, 1786.
71. Charles Gerrard to Cox Coart, December 13, 1786,
72. William Duncan to John Gray Blount, December 15, 1786.

LETTERS FOR 1787

1. Thomas Blount to John Gray & Thomas Blount, January 3, 1787.
2. Joseph Palmer to John Gray Blount, January 6, 1787.
3. William Blount to John Gray Blount, January 13, 1787.
4. Charles Gerrard to John Gray Blount, January 13, 1787.
5. John Cowper to John Gray Blount, January 13, 1787.
6. Fulwar Skipwith to John Gray & Thomas Blount, January 15, 1787.
7. Fulwar Skipwith to John Gray Blount, January 27, 1787.
8. George Ryan to John Gray Blount, January 28, 1787.
9. John Haywood to John Gray Blount, January 28, 1787.
10. John Cowper to John Gray Blount, January 30, 1787.
11. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, February 3, 1787.
12. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, February 5, 1787.
13. Stuart & Barr to John Gray & Thomas Blount, February 14, 1787.
14. George Ryan to John Gray Blount, February 16, 1787.
15. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, February 16, 1787.
16. Charles Gerrard to John Gray Blount, February 20, 1787.
17. James Aiken to John Gray Blount, February 26, 1787.
18. Bryan & Willcocks to John Gray & Thomas Blount (copy), February 28, 1787.
19. William Blount to John Gray Blount, March 1, 1787.
20. Thomas Blount to William Blount, March 7, 1787.
21. Charles Gerrard to John Gray Blount, March 7, 1787.
22. William Blount to John Gray Blount, March 8, 1787.
23. Thomas Blount to John Gray & Thomas Blount, March 10, 1787.
24. John Gray & Thomas Blount to Stuart & Barr (copy), March 11, 1787.
25. John Cowper to John Gray Blount, March 11, 1787.
26. William Blount to John Gray Blount, March 12, 1787.
27. John Haywood to John Gray Blount, March 14, 1787.
28. Philip Reilly to John Gray Blount, March 15, 1787.
29. John Cowper to John Gray Blount, March 15, 1787.
30. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, March 15, 1787.

31. John Haywood to John Gray Blount, March 16, 1787.
32. William Duncan to John Gray Blount, March 17, 1787.
33. De la Forest to William Blount & Benjamin Hawkins, March 19, 1787.
34. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, March 19, 1787.
35. William Blount and Benjamin Hawkins to John Gray Blount, March 20, 1787.
36. Benjamin Hawkins to John Gray Blount, March 21, 1787.
37. Joseph Hardy to John Blount, March 22, 1787.
38. John Cowper to John Gray Blount, March 23, 1787.
39. Micaj Thomas to John Gray Blount, March 25, 1787.
40. John Cowper to John Gray Blount, March 25, 1787.
41. John Cowper to John Gray Blount, March 29, 1787.
42. Thomas Blount to John Gray & Thomas Blount, April 4, 1787.
43. William Blount to John Gray Blount, April 5, 1787.
44. James Robertson to William Blount, April 7, 1787.
45. John Cowper to John Gray Blount, April 7, 1787.
46. John Gray Blount to Thomas Blount (copy), April 8, 1787.
47. E. Harris to John Gray Blount, April 10, 1787.
48. John Brown to John Gray Blount, April 11, 1787.
49. John Smith to John Gray Blount, April 11, 1787.
50. John Cowper to John Gray Blount, April 12, 1787.
51. J. Lalanne to John Gray Blount, April 13, 1787.
52. William Blount to John Gray Blount, April 13, 1787.
53. William White to John Gray Blount, April 15, 1787.
54. William White to John Gray Blount, April 17, 1787.
55. Fulwar Skipwith to John Gray Blount, April 18, 1787.
56. Thomas Blount to John Gray & Thomas Blount, April 18, 1787.
57. Constable Rucker & Company to John Gray Blount, April 18, 1787.
58. Nicholas Romaine to John Gray Blount, April 19, 1787.
59. Pennock, Nicolson, & Skipwith to John Gray Blount, April 21, 1787.
60. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, April 23, 1787.
61. Richard Caswell to John Gray Blount, April 24, 1787.
62. William Willcocks to John Gray & Thomas Blount, April 28, 1787.
63. Joseph Clay to Nicholas Romaine, April 28, 1787.
64. Richard Caswell to John Gray Blount, April 30, 1787.
65. Flahavan & Willcox to John Gray & Thomas Blount, May 2, 1787.
66. John Cowper to John Gray Blount, May 2, 1787.
67. Charles Gerrard to John Gray Blount, May 5, 1787.
68. Richard Lake to John Gray Blount (copy), May 12, 1787.
69. James Mulrain to John Gray Blount, May 16, 1787.
70. Thomas, Richard, & William Charles Lake to John Gray & Thomas Blount, May 29, 1787.
71. Richard Dobbs Spaight to John Gray Blount, May 30, 1787.
72. Robert Burton to John Gray Blount, May 31, 1787.
73. William Blount to John Gray Blount, June 3, 1787.
74. Benjamin Hawkins to John Gray Blount, June 5, 1787.
75. William Blount to John Gray Blount, June 8, 1787.
76. Richard Dobbs Spaight to John Gray Blount, June 12, 1787.
77. William Pennock to John Gray Blount, June 12, 1787.

78. Charles Gerrard to John Gray Blount, June 12, 1787.
79. Peter Mallett to John Gray Blount, June 17, 1787.
80. Stuart & Barr to Corvasier Benoist & Co. (copy), June 18, 1787.
81. William Blount to John Gray Blount, June 21, 1787.
82. James Barr to John Gray Blount, June 26, 1787.
83. William Blount to John Gray Blount, June 28, 1787.
84. William Pennock to John Gray Blount, July 1, 1787.
85. Richard Dobbs Spaight to John Gray Blount, July 3, 1787.
86. James Barr to John Gray Blount, July 6, 1787.
87. Thomas Blount to John Gray & Thomas Blount, July 7, 1787.
88. Richard Caswell to John Gray Blount, July 7, 1787.
89. Robert Stewart to John Gray Blount, July 9, 1787.
90. John Cowper to John Gray Blount, July 15, 1787.
91. William Blount to Richard Caswell (copy), July 19, 1787.
92. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, July 19, 1787.
93. Henry Peterson to Thomas Blount, July 26, 1787.
94. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount & Thomas Blount, July 28, 1787.
95. William Blount to Thomas Blount (copy), July 30, 1787.
96. John Begg to John Gray Blount, August 1, 1787.
97. James White to John Gray Blount, August 4, 1787.
98. William Blount to John Gray Blount, August 9, 1787.
99. James Barr for Stuart & Barr to John Gray Blount, August 11, 1787.
100. William Blount to John Gray Blount, August 11, 1787.
101. John Sitgreaves to John Gray Blount, August 12, 1787.
102. Abner Neale to John Gray Blount, August 15, 1787.
103. John Sitgreaves to John Gray Blount, August 24, 1787.
104. J. Parker to John Gray Blount, August 30, 1787.
105. Richard Dobbs Spaight to John Gray Blount, September 2, 1787.
106. Lanchan Brothers & Co. to John Gray Blount, with inclosure, September 10, 1787.
107. Thomas Blount to John Gray & Thomas Blount, September 11, 1787.
108. Thomas Blount to John Gray & Thomas Blount, October 4, 1787.
109. William Good to John Gray Blount, October 6, 1787.
110. Sam Johnston to John Gray Blount, October 7, 1787.
111. Charles Gerrard to John Gray Blount, October 10, 1787.
112. James White to John Gray Blount, October 14, 1787.
113. John Barry & Co. to William Blount with postscript by William Blount with inclosure, October 22, 1787.
114. Thomas Blount to John Gray and Thomas Blount, October 31, 1787.
115. Nicholas Romaine to John Gray Blount, November 12, 1787.
116. John Haywood to John Gray Blount, November 18, 1787.
117. Fulwar Skipwith to John Gray & Thomas Blount, November 21, 1787.
118. Constable Rucker & Co. to John Gray & Thomas Blount, November 30, 1787.
119. Thomas Blount to John Gray & Thomas Blount with copy of reply from John Gray Blount, December 5, 1787.
120. Michail Rogers to John Gray Blount, December 24, 1787.
121. Stuart & Barr to John Gray Blount, December 31, 1787.
122. Edward Hall to John Gray Blount (n. d.).

LETTERS FOR 1788-1789

1. Thomas Blount to John Gray & Thomas Blount, January 2, 1788.
2. William Blount to John Gray Blount, January 4, 1788.
3. Edward Hall to John Gray Blount, January 12, 1788.
4. William Blount to John Gray Blount, February 8, 1788.
5. John Gray Blount to George Nicolson (copy), February 18, 1788.
6. Ezekiel Cossa to John Gray Blount, February 19, 1788.
7. George Denisen to John Gray Blount, February 23, 1788.
8. John Evans to John Gray Blount, February 26, 1788.
9. George Nicolson to John Gray Blount, February 28, 1788.
10. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, March 3, 1788.
11. Arnoldus Vanderhorst to John Gray Blount, March 4, 1788.
12. Sherwood Haywood to John Gray Blount, March 7, 1788.
13. James Aiken to John Gray & Thomas Blount, March (n. d.), 1788.
14. William Tatham to John Gray Blount, March 8, 1788.
15. Henry William Harrington to John Gray Blount, March 10, 1788.
16. Charles Gerrard to John Gray Blount, March 15, 1788.
17. George Nicolson to John Gray & Thomas Blount, March 25, 1788.
18. Benjamin Harrison, Jr., to John Gray & Thomas Blount, March 30, 1788.
19. Richard Lake to John Gray Blount, April 1, 1788.
20. Robert Stewart to John Gray Blount, April 4, 1788.
21. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, April 9, 1788.
22. Samuel Johnston to John Gray Blount, April 12, 1788.
23. William McDaniel to John Gray Blount, April 24, 1788.
24. Charles Gilchrist to John Gray Blount, April 26, 1788.
25. Charles Gerrard to John Gray Blount, April 30, 1788.
26. Daniel Wardrop to John Gray Blount, May 3, 1788.
27. Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount, May 4, 1788.
28. William McKenzie to John Gray Blount, May 21, 1788.
29. John Skinner to John Gray Blount, May 21, 1788.
30. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, May 21, 1788.
31. Arnoldus Vanderhorst to John Gray Blount, May 27, 1788.
32. Samuel Johnston to John Gray Blount, May 28, 1788.
33. William Blount to John Gray Blount, with inclosures (n. d.), 1788.
34. Samuel Spencer to John Gray Blount, May 31, 1788.
35. James Warington to John Gray and Thomas Blount, May (n. d.), 1788.
36. Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount, June 2, 1788.
37. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, June 4, 1788.
38. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, June 10, 1788.
39. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, June 14, 1788.
40. James Iredell to John Gray Blount, June 19, 1788.
41. William Blount to John Gray Blount, June 22, 1788.
42. Charles Kirby to John Gray Blount, June 23, 1788.
43. Thomas Gilchrist to John Gray Blount, June 27, 1788.
44. Thomas Harney to John Gray Blount, June 30, 1788.
45. George Nicolson to John Gray & Thomas Blount, June 30, 1788.
46. Andrew Connor to John Gray Blount, July 13, 1788.

47. George Nicolson to John Gray Blount, July 14, 1788.
48. Abram Hodge to John Gray Blount, July 16, 1788.
49. John Pringle to John Gray Blount, July 21, 1788.
50. Richard Blackledge to William Blount, July 23, 1788.
51. Joseph Martin to Samuel Johnston (?) (copy), July 25, 1788.
52. Jean Jacques Berard to John Gray & Thomas Blount, July 26, 1788.
53. Isaac Hazlehurst & Co. to John Gray Blount and Thomas Blount, July 27, 1788.
54. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, August 6, 1788.
55. John Simpson to John Gray Blount, August 10, 1788.
56. Arnoldus Vanderhorst to John Gray Blount, August 16, 1788.
57. John Jones to John Gray Blount, August 17, 1788.
58. William McDaniel to John Gray Blount, August 17, 1788.
59. Charles Gerrard to John Gray Blount, August 18, 1788.
60. Abram Hodge to John Gray Blount, August 20, 1788.
61. George Nicolson to John Gray Blount, August 24, 1788.
62. J. Lalanne to John Gray Blount, August 29, 1788.
63. John Trippe to John Gray Blount, August 30, 1788.
64. T Brice to John Gray Blount, September 5, 1788.
65. Richard Blackledge to John Gray Blount, September 5, 1788.
66. James Iredell to John Gray Blount, September 13, 1788.
67. John G. Godwin to John Gray Blount, September 1, 1788.
68. Flahavan & Willcox to John Gray & Thomas Blount, September 23, 1788.
69. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, October 9, 1788.
70. William Blount to John Gray Blount, October 24, 1788.
71. James Barr to John Gray Blount, October 30, 1788.
72. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, November 6, 1788.
73. William Blount to John Gray Blount, November 6, 1788.
74. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, November 7, 1788.
75. Abner Neale to John Gray Blount, November 10, 1788.
76. Abner Neale to John Gray Blount, November 16, 1788.
77. Abner Neale to John Gray Blount, November 28, 1788.
78. William Blount to John Gray Blount, December 4, 1788.
79. William Blount to John Gray Blount, December 5, 1788.
80. Reading Blount to John Gray Blount, December 8, 1788.
81. William Blount to John Gray Blount, December 11, 1788.
82. Stuart & Barr to John Gray and Thomas Blount, December 12, 1788.
83. Richard Dobbs Spaight to John Gray Blount, December 13, 1788.
84. Elijah Robertson to William Blount, December 25, 1788.
85. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, December 31, 1788.
86. Abner Neale to John Gray Blount, January 1, 1789.
87. Stuart & Barr to John Gray and Thomas Blount, January 7, 1789.
88. Josiah Collins to John Gray Blount, January 8, 1789.
89. Abram Jones to John Gray Blount, January 12, 1789.
90. Benjamin Coakley to John Gray Blount, January 19, 1789.
91. William Blount to Wilson Blount (copy), with a postscript to John Gray Blount, January 20, 1789.
92. George Nicolson to John Gray and Thomas Blount, January 22, 1789.

93. Thomas Hart to . . . (a form letter), January 23, 1789.
94. Joseph Palmer to John Gray Blount, January 25, 1789.
95. Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount, January 26, 1789.
96. Benjamin Hawkins to William Blount with a postscript by William Blount to John Gray Blount, February 3, 1789.
97. Abner Neale to John Gray Blount, February 4, 1789.
98. William Blount to John Gray Blount, March 3, 1789.
99. Charles Gerrard to John Gray Blount, March 10, 1789.
100. Abner Neale to John Gray Blount, March 10, 1789.
101. John Simpson to John Gray Blount, March 13, 1789.
102. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, March 14, 1789.
103. Edward Hall to John Gray Blount, March 18, 1789.
104. William Blount to John Gray Blount, March 25, 1789.
105. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, March 26, 1789.
106. Jacob Blount to John Gray Blount, April 1, 1789.
107. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, April 13, 1789.
108. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, April 18, 1789.
109. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, April 20, 1789.
110. Fulwar Skipwith to Thomas Blount, April 22, 1789.
111. Edward Hall to John Gray Blount, April 28, 1789.
112. Benjamin Atkinson to John Gray Blount, May 2, 1789.
113. George Ogg to William Blount (?), May 10, 1789.
114. Reading Blount to John Gray Blount, May 16, 1789.
115. Jacob Blount to John Gray Blount, May 18, 1789.
116. Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount, May 22, 1789.
117. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, May 25, 1789.
118. Benjamin Coakley to John Gray Blount, May 28, 1789.
119. Luke Robason to John Gray Blount, June 1, 1789.
120. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, June 2, 1789.
121. James Iredell to John Gray Blount, June 6, 1789.
122. William Blount to John Gray Blount, June 6, 1789.
123. William Blount to John Gray Blount, June 12, 1789.
124. Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, June 13, 1789.
125. Amos Johnston to John Gray Blount, June 19, 1789.
126. James Barr to John Gray Blount, June 20, 1789.
127. Joseph Palmer to John Gray Blount, June 28, 1789.
128. James Iredell to John Gray Blount, July 1, 1789.
129. John Skinner to John Gray Blount, July 3, 1789.
130. James Barr to John Gray and Thomas Blount, July 11, 1789.
131. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, July 22, 1789.
132. William Polk to John Gray Blount, July 27, 1789.
133. George Denisen to John Gray Blount, August 1, 1789.
134. Benjamin Russell to John Gray Blount, August 6, 1789.
135. William Murdock to Thomas Blount (duplicate), August 7, 1789.
136. William Blount to John Gray Blount, August 7, 1789.
137. Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount, August 8, 1789.
138. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, August 8, 1789.
139. Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount, August 8, 1789.
140. John Evans to John Gray Blount, August 28, 1789.

141. Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount, September 1, 1789.
142. De la Forest to John Gray Blount, September 5, 1789.
143. James Iredell to John Gray Blount, September 9, 1789.
144. John Sitgreaves to John Gray Blount, September 10, 1789.
145. James Robertson to William Blount, September 21, 1789.
146. John Armstrong to William Blount, October 6, 1789.
147. John Haywood to John Gray Blount, October 13, 1789.
148. Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, October 17, 1789.
149. Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount, October 19, 1789.
150. Mary (Mrs. John Gray) Blount to Suckey (Mrs. Jacob) Blount, with an inclosed recipe for Mrs. Wadell, November 2, 1789.
151. Ebenezer Love to John Gray Blount, November 8, 1789.
152. Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount, November 15, 1789.
153. Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount, November 20, 1789.
154. William Blount to William White, November 22, 1789.
155. John Harvey to John Gray Blount, December 2, 1789.
156. Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount, December 9, 1789.
157. John Smith to John Gray Blount, December 15, 1789.
158. Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount, December 19, 1789.
159. Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount, December 23, 1789.
160. John Scott to John Gray Blount, December 29, 1789.

PAPERS FOR 1764-1789

1. Petition of Jacob Blount for Annulment of Election, February 8, 1764.
2. Bill of Exchange for Jacob Blount, Deputy Paymaster General of the Continental Troops in North Carolina, February 12, 1777.
3. Resolution of the House of Commons, State of North Carolina, April 23, 1778.
4. Deed from Jacob Blount, Sr., to William Blount, June 27, 1778.
5. Report of the Committee on the New Bern Election, October (n. d.), 1779.
6. William Blount Named Paymaster for Militia, May 10, 1780.
7. Commission to John Gray Blount from Abner Nash, May 20, 1780.
8. Commission to John Gray Blount from Joseph Green, July 18, 1780.
9. Accounts of Jacob Blount and William Blount, Paymaster (n. d.).
10. John Bryan's Testimony on Election, May 6, 1783.
11. Indenture between Burwell Pope, Thomas Tulloch, and Harvey Macon, May 18, 1783.
12. Shipping Cargo Receipt by Joseph Putnam, October 3, 1783.
13. Extract of Minutes—House of Assembly of Georgia, February 20, 1784.
14. Petition of William Blount and Associates to the Assembly of Georgia for a Grant of Land, February 7, 1784.
15. List of Goods Requested from Brennen by William Blount, April 10, 1784.
16. Unsigned Declaration of the Jurors in Orange County on Land Claims Case, April 16, 1784.
17. Bill of Fees for Land Surveys and Locations due William Polk (n. d.).

18. List of Goods to be Purchased for the Use of the Cherokee Indians, September, 1785 (?).
19. Indenture and Marriage Settlement of Louisa Blount, October 16, 1785.
20. Bill of Sale of Negroes from Richard Blackledge to Louisa Blount, October 4, 1786.
21. Ann Harvey's Bequest to John Gray Blount, Jr., October 6, 1786.
22. Gift to Louisa Blount from Jacob Blount, October 16, 1786.
23. Legislative Committee's Report on William Blount's Indian Affairs, January 6, 1787.
24. Indenture between Thomas and Titus Ogden and John Gray Blount, May 25, 1787.
25. Will of Louisa Blount Blackledge (copy), November 3, 1788.
26. Notice by William Blount Concerning the Marriage Settlement Property of Louisa Blount Blackledge, January 1, 1789.
27. List of Articles Shipped by Stuart & Barr to John Gray & Thomas Blount, May 20, 1789.
28. List of Officers of the North Carolina Line entitled to Bounty of Land by Acts of Congress 16 & 18, September, 1776 (Sent to John Gray Blount, November 18, 1789).

THE BLOUNT PAPERS

LETTERS FOR 1774-1782

*Jacob Blount to James Green*¹

CONTENTNEY, January 23^d 1774

I Receivd Your Favor Dated 6th. Instant and hath observed the Contents and am Extremely Glad to hear that You have it in Your power to Settle Your Business to the Northward so much to your satisfaction as on your one [own] Terms I must Confess it is Unexpected to me, as you always told me that You would Give me Six months Notice Before you wanted the money though that should have made no ods to me if I had not have Ben Under a promace to Mr Cornell² to have pade him for my Lot in may next and have it not in my power to Comply with Boath Contracts and if Either party must go Unpade I should Chuse that Mr Cornell should Wate for Two Reazons first that I am Very Certain that I am Under Know Apprehensions of his Being in any Want of the money that next is that it must Oblige You I would Rather Give 12 P C^t for money than not Comply with my promas to Either party But You May Depend on my Exerting my Self in Giting the money for you But am Doutfull of my having it in my power to give you the money Before the Very Last of March Or some time in Aprill next, I shall have about 25 Barales of pork, 150 Barals of pitch one hundred Barals of Corn to Disposs of [.] plesse Advise p the first opportunity if Either of those articals will Sute as the money is to be pade to the northward it is Likely som of them may and the prices my porke is most of it Corn fead-

From Sir Y^r Reale
Friend & Humble Servt
JACOB BLOUNT

¹Miscellaneous Papers, Series One, II, 24 (North Carolina Department of Archives and History, Raleigh). James Green, Jr., was clerk of the House of Commons of North Carolina in 1773 and clerk of the Senate in 1777. *Colonial Records of North Carolina*, IX, 453; Legislative Papers, House of Commons (North Carolina Department of Archives and History, Raleigh), XII, May 9, 1777.

²Probably Samuel Cornell of New Bern. *Colonial Records of North Carolina*, X, 462, 1019-1024.

Since I wrote this Letter I have understood [that] Mr. Cornell is to pay the money for you to the Norwood [northward] and should be Glad you will not show him this Letter or any other person as neither artical will Sute you But the Money [.] You nead say nothing about yr porke [or] Corn [or] pitch as I have Given John [John Gray Blount] orders to Inquire

Addressed: James Green Junr

New Bern

[North Carolina]

John Harvey³ to John Gray Blount

PERQUIMANS CON. [County] 1st Feby 1775

Dear Sir

Your esteemed 20th Dec^r. I received for which I thank you, am Suprised Capt Holt can be guilty of such mean Subterfuges to delay [s]o long payment of Just debts, I have lately seen Mr [sic] Fletcher who desires me to present you his best [re]spects & that you will loose no time wth. Capt. [Holt] but compell him by Law to pay what he has not Honesty enough to do without, The story he told you of Mr Knox he has often told me without any Truth for its foundation Please to offer Mrs. Harvey & my Respectful Compliments to your fathers family & all friends & believe me to be Dr Sir

Your obledg Obl. Serv^t.

JOHN HARVEY

James⁴ is Just gone home & desired me to enclose you the original song & request you will find a tune to it Yrs. J. H

³John Harvey of Perquimans County, North Carolina, was one of the boldest of Revolutionary leaders. He was speaker of the House of Commons from 1765 to 1775 with the exception of one term when he was kept away by illness. While speaker in 1774, he defied royal authority in the person of Governor Josiah Martin by calling a convention to meet in New Bern on April 3, 1775, to choose delegates to the Continental Congress. His wife was the daughter of Edward Salter (see below, p. 5, n. 10). The Harveys and Blounts were greatly interrelated by marriage. Jacob Blount's second wife was the niece of John Harvey, as was Reading Blount's wife. Ann Blount married James Harvey, the son of Colonel John Harvey, and Jacob Blount, Jr., married the widow of Augustus Harvey (the second marriage), the half-brother of John Gray Bount's wife. R. D. W. Connor, *History of North Carolina* (New York: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1919), I, 348-350. See also the biographical introduction to this volume, above, pp. xiii-xxxi.

⁴James Harvey who married John Gray Blount's sister, Ann Blount. He was the son of Colonel John Harvey.

Oh curse this cruel Love
 It makes me like a Sot
 and her I call my Love
 Is like—I dont know what

Shes artful as a dog
 and like a Jackall Shy
 She's heavy as an ox
 and chatters like a pie

Bright as the Sun at Noon
 lovely near does shine
 eyes dull as the Moon
 mouth as wide as mine

Her teeth as Jet are black
 her lips as milk are white
 Like a Camell in the back
 A Wondrous lovely Sight

The hair for horse hair passes
 her skin is like a Nut
 Her ears are long as Asses
 Her hands are black as Soot

Her mother was a Cinder Wench
 her father was a weaver
 She's charming as a Physic Drench
 I love her like a Fever

Addressed: Capt John Gray Blount
 Favor Miles Harvey

William Blount to John Gray Blount

WILLIAMSBURG, June 4th 1777

Sirs

Thus far safe arrived and [will] set on tomorrow Morning.
 Find no Sale at all here for Indigo,⁵ but a Gentleman of the Name

⁵There are several references to the production of indigo in the early letters. The producers were unable to market their crops successfully in spite of the fact that the quality was pronounced very good.

of King informs me who is directly from Philadelphia that it there bears 2 Dollars, when I get there or else where if the market is good will inform you, but in the meantime should you have oure 12/ bid I think you had as well take it. In case you should sell it in all probability you will receive North Carolina Dollars in Payment, these I wish you to have changed with one of the Treasurers when the Continental money comes in as my Father owes David Barron about the same Sum that We owe him [Barron] and I believe it is to be paid to him in Con[tinen-tal] Mony & I imagine & wish that my Father would [use] the Money We owe him should you pay him to the purpose of paying him [David Barron)—Colonel Kennon⁶ has told me that He would give Us South Carolina Pine Lumber for our Indigo which is more that 12/ but I would not recommend it to you to sell to him at all and should He propose to bargain with you evade it Unless you are very sure that you can pay the Mony down at the Moment He receives the Indigo— The Colonel told me that He proposed to get you to transact his Business this Summer to load his Vessels & c [I] should be glad you could serve him if convenient it may serve to keep you in Business this Summer but [I] would wish you to take Care should you do anything for him, not to engage for anything in his Name unless you have the money in your Hands or something else to pay for it as He is not very Punctual—Captain Cooper⁷ has not yet got a Pilate Boat to answer our Purpose of Privateering and I am something doubtful [that he] [2] will Not be able to procure one—Should that be the Case I have told & wrote to Colonel Kennon that I will take $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Brigantine that He bought of Willson Blount⁸ & Cooper She is a very swift Sailer & a very fine Vessel. Captain Cooper is to have a $\frac{1}{4}$ & the Colonel $\frac{1}{2}$ & Cooper again to have the Command to France with Tobacco & staves, say nothing of this Should it happen to any Person particularly to Willson Blount who I don't think behaved well to Colonel Kennon in the Sale of her & would be very highly offended if He knew that Cooper or Myself were concerned with her—The terms are that

⁶Probably Colonel William Kennon, who was purchaser for South Carolina. *State Records of North Carolina*, XXII, 921.

⁷Captain John Cooper. William Blount to John Gray Blount, Piney Grove, April 8, 1785 (see below, p. 195).

⁸Wilson Blount lived near New Bern. In fact, he seemed to have had a town and a plantation residence. He was probably related to Jacob's family, but was not of immediate connection. The Blounts of Beaufort and Craven counties often had business dealings with him. He and his wife, Anne, granted a plot of land in New Bern to Jacob Blount in 1775. John H. Bryan Papers (North Carolina Department of Archives and History, Raleigh), March 17, 1775.

in Case I have $\frac{1}{4}$ that Captain Cooper pays to Colonel Kennon the £ 250 that He has of our Mony in his Hands in part payment of her and for the Residue of her and Cargoe He must Stay till I return [...] these are the Terms I have wrote him—but should He want Mony in further Payment should be glad if in your Power that you could pay him any Sum under £ 110 more this perhaps you may get from Willson Blount whom I would not wish you to distress but get the mony if you can without [doing so]—Should Cooper get a Boat & want more Mony supply him as soon as posable as this is my Favorite Scheme—He goes from this to Hampton & from there to New Bern & then will inform you what he will do—No news—Keep our Business to yourself—Write me often & particularly about Colonel B & Miss G[rainger?]. My duty to Mamma & love to Sisters &c and was going to conclude but Colonel Henderson⁹ has just come in and desires me to inform you that He loves you & That His warmest Wishes are daily for your welfare & that our Titles to the Transylvania lands shall stand or fall with his own. He is not able to give Us any Acct how it will be determined—He further desires me to inform you that he is authorized to say that all the Entries will be made good to the Adventurers whether He looses the Proprietor ship or not [3]

Since I am bauked [balked] of concluding where I intended I will proceed to inform you that the Convention of this state [Virginia] are now seting that I this day took for an hour or two a seat in Lobby I find that they keep exceeding fine order and that there are some very sensible Men but there are some of the other Quality as well as elsewhere. A certain Mr. Alexander a Lawyer, in the Course of Debate took Occasion to say that He considered that Body as the Highest Court of Judicature on the Continent (He was not contradicted) I felt myself Hurt at first but when I considered that there was the Continental Congress & eleven other beside No Carolina I imputed it to his Ignorance & Pride. However this may be treasured to Ballance something that the Virginians may say against No Carolina—Inform Colonel Salter¹⁰ respecting the price of Indigo on which Head I wrote

⁹This was probably Samuel Henderson, a brother of Colonel Richard Henderson, since it was Samuel who had the most direct association and seemed to be a closer friend of the Blounts. See letters from Samuel Henderson in this volume.

¹⁰This was probably Robert Salter. No family history of Robert Salter has been found. He may have been the unborn son Colonel Edward Salter mentioned in his will. The Salters and Blounts were interrelated. Jacob Blount, John Harvey and Miles Harvey were all sons-in-law of Colonel Edward Salter. *Colonial Records of North Carolina*, IV, xxx-xxxi; X, 14, 63, 333, 501, 915, 947; J. Bryan Grimes, *Abstract of North Carolina Wills* (Raleigh: E. M. Uzzell & Co., 1910), 324.

him from Halifax & promised to have done the same from Here but have not—Am just going to a musical Enteraments (Enter-
tainments) & am yours

WM BLOUNT

P. S. The above I fancy you wont think was wrote by Inspiration.

William Blount to John Gray Blount

PHILADELPHIA, July 12 1777

Sir

This comes by Mr. John Allen¹¹ who has under his Escort 300.-
000 dollars or your State He has promised to let you know before
He delivers it to the Treasurer, indeed He is to deliver it to the
Governor and then I think you had best apply & get your de-
mands satisfy'd as soon as convenient—Delays may be dangerous
tho to be sure that Sum must more than satisfy all demands—On
the Score of News have wrote my father, Shall be home by the
10th of October I believe if not sooner—My Compliments to Mr.
Harvey, Mamma, Sisters etc—

I am yours

WM BLOUNT

Addressed: Mr. John Gray Blount
Contentney

Martha Baker¹² to Mrs. Mary Blount

PINEY PLEASANT

No[vember] 1778

My dear Cousin

You see I have not altered my old accustomed stile—and began
Madam—or Mrs. Such a one—For while I address Mrs. Blount

¹¹John Allen of Craven County. John H. Wheeler, *Historical Sketches of North Carolina from 1584-1851* (New York: Colonel John N. Hitchcock, 1925), I, 80.

¹²Martha Baker, daughter of Colonel Benjamin Baker and later the wife of Thomas Blount. Mary Blount was the wife of John Gray Blount, and was usually referred to as "Sister Polly" by other members of the family.

—I do not forget she is still Cousin Polly—and Flatter myself it will be equally as agreeable to you as if I had began in that respectful—Formal manner and more especially if you will be pleased to consider—Formality does not sit well on a Piney Woods Girl—but let us change the Subject. I suppose you are by this time Cousin settled in Washington and have really commenced House wife—how Delighted should I be to see you in your new station—but I often do in Imagination—when you never Fail to acquit yourself—with your usual Gracefulness—hasten your Journey hither my Dear Cousin for I have not yet forgot my Promise of returning with you—I have refused several little Journeys lately—and shall continue to do so—as Daddy may not have any objection to my accompany [you] home—I have promised myself a great Deal of Happiness—in this approaching [journey—marred manuscript] if no accident intervenes Pray Heaven there may not—is there no [marred manuscript] remedy? my Dear—for the scarcity of opportunity—when we might Convey our—Letters more Frequently—this Correspondence does not Please me on that account. for this is the first opportunity that has occurred since I saw you—Mr. Tom Blount accepted [excepted] when I had not time—you will wish to know Perhaps when I heard from Perquimons—Probably you have since myself—for it has been Three or Four Weeks since Cousin Tommy and Lady—likewise Cousin Ben—was here when the Former was unfortunate enough to lose [The worn manuscript is illegible.] our Cousin Sharpe revisited Isle of Wright before his return home—but I believe with as little success as ever—do you not repeat with me—Poor Sharp—your Brother Augustus returned with my Brother from the Academy some Weeks ago and Cousin Gustus is now in Perquimans—Sister Polly bids me inform you she cannot (2) Pay you a visit this Christmas as she purposed the Weather being now too cold—Neither does she know [when it] will be in her Power—but all these important Trifles will be settled when we see you—[2]

This Letter will be short Comparatively speaking—occasioned by a Humour in the end of several of my Fingers (me thinks I see you Laugh)—but in earnest it is very painful to me—for I cannot now hold my Pen with the least steadiness—so for heavens sake shew this Scrawl to no Soul—you may Guess who I am most apprehensive of¹³—but surely you would not offer—

¹³Thomas Blount.

no for modesty's sake you could not shew it to him—think when you were a Poor Helpless Girl and pity me—expose not this insignificant scribble—wrote intirely to amuse you—but I must conclude this Unconnected Epistle—with Presenting my Compliments to the Worthy Family of Mr. Jacob Blount—and best wishes for your Temporal and Eternal Welfare may your Felicity continue while Life las[ts]—for an addition I suppose is almost impossible—so having nothing more to add—I subscribe myself—your much obliged Friend and Cousin

MARTHA BAKER

N B My Compliments to Your Mr. Blount and tell him we like our Chintz very Well

M B

Addressed: Mrs. Mary Blo[unt]

Washington

Recommended to the care of:

MR. WM. BAKER

Thomas Hart¹⁴ to William Blount

HARTFORD Jan^y. 25th 1780

Dear Sir—

I have (Once more) Sent a waggon and two Hhd^s. tob^o. to your place, and what will you send me in Return, I Suppose a half Bush^l. Salt, or Gallⁿ. of Rum for a 100^{wt} Tob^o, Something like this, I make no doubt,—What a Sett of Atheistical fellows must there be in Newbern that thinks there is Neither God nor Devil to punish them in a Nother World, for their usury to us in this, I must send down Debow¹⁵ Once more to preach up

¹⁴Thomas Hart was a prominent citizen of Orange County. He resided at his estate, Hartford, in the vicinity of Hillsboro. He was sheriff in his county and was an opponent of the Regulators. He was a justice of the peace in 1771; a member of the legislature, 1773 and 1777; and a representative to the Provincial Congress at Hillsboro, August 20, 1775. He was a member of the Transylvania Company and was much interested in the lands of the West. The reference to him as the grandfather of Thomas Hart Benton [Archibald Henderson, "James Hogg, a Good Scot and a Distinguished North Carolinian," *The News and Observer* (Raleigh), May 8, 1938] seems to be in error. He was, instead, the uncle of his well-known namesake [Wm. M. Meigs, *The Life of Thomas Hart Benton* (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1904), 15-16; William N. Chambers, "As the Twig Is Bent: The Family and the North Carolina Years of Thomas Hart Benton, 1752-1801," *The North Carolina Historical Review*, XXVI (October, 1949), 387]. The Hart letters in the John Gray Blount Papers are in a very dilapidated condition.

¹⁵The Reverend John DeBow from the Presbytery of New Brunswick had stirred a great revival through his ministry in the southeastern part of the state in 1776-1783.

the Doctrine of Regeneration or the New Birth to you, for If ever there was a Sett of men on the face of this Globe, who stood more in Need of being Regenerated and Born anew, I wonder trully how many poor Sons of Bitches with tears in their Eyes have I Seen within these Six weeks past, Coming from your place, Some with 5 or 6 Bush^{ls}. Salt in their waggons, Some [with?] 8 or 10 Gall^s. of Rum, and others with Cargoes [of less?] Vallue, all declaring themselves Broken [miserably] but None of them without a Good Store of [curses which] they bestow (with a very Liberal hand) on the Good folks of Newbern, and how can you bear with all this, can you [2] expect to thrive Under the Heavy Curses of the Rightious folks of this Country, had Not you better try to do Something that may entitle you to Our Blessing Instead of Our Curses, come do (for Godsake) begin with me, and let us See what you can do. The Winter is very hard and Corn very Scarce, I have therefore Sent down a Cupple of Good Horses, what will you give me for them, two Good Horses & two Hh^{ds}. Tob^o. Undoubtedly is worth two Hh^{ds} o good Rum, and a little sugar besides, or the devil is in it, but you wont purchase anything that you Can't Immediately put on Board, therefore do Recommend him to Some of your Good Gent^m. in Newbern who will deal Cleverly with him.

I Remember you told me whenever you heard any person [complaining] against Others, for making Money too fast, you looked on him as an envious man, who was disturb'd Only with his Own [mis]fortune, which forbid him Reaping equal [amounts with]those he envy'd, there may be a good [deal of truth?] in this Observation, If we will admitt the [.....] in [.....] Same degeneracy with the People of Newbern, but you must not admit of this, or this Preaching of Debow will be in Vain to you, for while ever you [3] Can flatter yourselves that you are virtuous as [Others] there is little hopes of Conviction, and while you Continue to Make Money out of us, we must Content Ourselves with heaping our Curses on you, and much you lose for that—

But Come in earnest, will you be kind enough to Settle with Mr. Berry for the Oyl Stand will you [—illegible], and If not, to advise him Where he will be [most] likely to [make a sale of

both] the Horses & To^b.—The money for the Emissions of April & May pray Send If possible to Obtain it, as I Shall Set Out for my Bro^{rs}. 15th March and Shall have no Other Opport^y. of Sending for it. If M^r. Green pays it on an Old Certificate he has the money Now by him—Inclos'd is a letter for your Sister M^{rs}. Harvey please to forward it to Blount Hall M^{rs}. Hart Joins me in Complim^{ts}. to M^{rs}. Blount, M^{rs}. Grainger & yourself

I am Dr. Sir with Esteem

Your Mo Obed^t & Hble Serv^t.

THO^s. HART

Thomas Hart to Thomas Blount

HARTFORD Jan^{ry}. 28th. 1780

Dear Sir

I promised you when at my House that I would let you know the time I Set Out for Transylvania, 15th. of March, Sir, is the day set Apart for that purpose by myself and a number of Other Gentⁿ. Whom I have told your were a Gentⁿ. of your Word and that they might Rely on your punctual Attendance Maj^r. Tatum¹⁶ waited on me the other day and desir'd his Compliments presented to you and that he hop'd you would Not fast—I have to inform you that I have lately Sold Hartford Mills Manufactories &c, and am now a Gentⁿ. of pleasure, at first Liberty, to Gratify all my wishes in that Country, I have taken a Bill of exchange for £ 3360 in Ster^g. for Hartford payable at 60 days Sight after the 26th. November 1783 it is from a young Clergy man of the name H Frazir [*sic*] latly from Scotland who has Just been inform^d (by Letter) of his Fathers Death and of his bequeathing him an Estate of £ 10.000 Sterl^g. I believe it is Good [2] but as it is on Such a long Sight, I presume the Merch^{ts}. of Newbern would Not be fond of purchasing of it, Will you be kind enough to try them and inform me by Return of the Bearer what I could have for it on my Indors^g. and being Responsible for it, though the Bill must not be presented for paym^t. before

¹⁶Absalom Tatum of Hillsboro. *State Records of North Carolina*, XXII, 4.

it becomes due, as the Person holds me up to that, wishing to have it in his power to go Settle and Sell of his Estate before it Should be there known he had drawn for So Considerable a part of it— I Ought to Say something to you on the Subject of Transylvania but as I have Nothing new Shall Defer it Untill I have the pleasure of Seeing [you] at my Home I have wrote a few lines to M^{rs}. Harvey who I hope will come up with you and tarry with M^{rs}. Hart Untill we Shall Return, your Bro^r. W^m. in his last Mention'd Somthing of the Kentuckey but rather in disrespectfull terms, I wish you would tell him (from me, that I do Not allow him the Privilege of Conversing, or even, Mentioning the Gracious Name of Kentuckey again in future, I have abused him a Little, to his Sister and have inclosed her letter in One [3] to himself where I intend he Shall be the Conductor of his Own Abuse and Nothing more than what he deserves I shall Rely on Seeing you and your Sister M^{rs}. Harvey, the 15th. of March in the Mean time I remain Dear Maj^r. with high Esteem

Your Mo Obed^t Hble Serv^t

THO^s. HART

N B will you (among your politicians) endeavour to find Out the Reasons for present Assembly's being Call'd and let me hear and whether a Bill for a Smaller Sum on 60 days Sight will Sell to Advantage as I can get Such a One If encouraged,

Thomas Hart to John Gray Blount

HARTFORD Jan^{ry}. 29th. 1780

Dear Sir

My M^r. Rice I rec^d. yours of the 14th. Decm^r. last and £1165,,5, on Acc^t. of Col^o. Salters Estate,¹⁷ I expect, were you to examine farther into the Col^{os}. Books you would find a quantity of Nuns thr^d. [thread] and Some Other Small Articles which he Sold me as well as the Butter, but they were all Settled, the Col^o. was by his Agrem^t. to give me 10 Hh^{ds}. of Rum Averaging 108 Gal^s. each & as it was then Rated at 32/2 Amounted to £1728—Out of which he paid me 447^{lb}. Butter the thread And Other Articles Above Mentioned and Drew an Order on his Bro^r. for [illegible] 32/ the Ballance then due, and [illegible].....

¹⁷Probably Robert Salter.

.....] Observe the dates I expect the Order dated after the Butter Charg'd, However, the Valus of £111,15 is to triffling (especially after loosing 1065 dollars by the Rum for the very Money you paid Capt. Rice he gave your Bro^r. for Rum at 40/ Doll^s. pr. Galⁿ.) that I shall not [2] Contend at all about it, but the fact will always Remain as it Now is, that Col^o. Salters Children will enjoy £537,15,, of my Childrens estate, But this I do not Blame you for, because it did Not Appear So to you and I know you to be a man will always do what you think is Right, and I am thankfull to you for Settling without putting me to the trouble of Coming after it, I Set Out in March for the Kentucky and If in my power Should be happy to Serve you there, you are So engag'd in Trade that I know you Could Not think of Going yourself, yet from the Knowledge you have of that Country, I shall fully depend on Seeing you there Some future day I am Dear Sir, with my best Complim^{ts}. to [your] Worthy Spouse

Your Mo Obdt
THO^s. HART

Fragment of Letter from [Martha Baker to Mrs. Mary Blount]

PINEY PLEASANT Oct 11, 1780

My Cousin is too well acquainted with my sentiments to convey now the threadbare confession that I shall be glad to see her at Piney P—let me rather assure you—that I vieview the approaching Day with exquisite delight—that gives me the pleasure of seeing my dear Washington Friends again—my Spirits which are now at their lowest ebb—seem to anticipate this Visit and revive at the Idea—but let me not keep you in suspense as to the cause of my dejection—for fear you shou'd misconstrue my Meaning—and attribute this plaintive strain to the loss of some favourite swain perhaps—

Six weeks have now elapsed since the Ague and fever¹⁸ has raged with uninterrupted violence [violence] at—and about the Neighbour hood of S[outh] Q[uay]¹⁹—You cannot suppose so

¹⁸Ague and fever were constant complaints in North Carolina at this time. In fact, health conditions were in a fairly primitive state and there apparently was little, if any, consciousness of the possibility for preventive developments.

¹⁹South Quay, or South Key, was in Virginia, southwest of Suffolk on the road to Halifax, North Carolina. See Charles Christopher Crittenden, *The Commerce of North Carolina, 1763-1789* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1936), map facing 196; also John Collet, *A Compleat Map of North Carolina from an Actual Survey* (London, 1770).

large a family as this are exempt from that insidious [*Sic*] disorder (for it appears to be so indeed of late)—on the contrary every individual has had it almost—Sister Polly and myself more severe than ever before—I hope she is now recovering fast—but as to my own health [it] is as yet imperfect—which causes and and insipid langour ever to dwell on my Mind—[.....]—it is wrong tho' in this manner to make you acquainted and even present with affliction—excuse me my Polly—for is it not natural to Write on a Topic which is most predominant—

It is time now to begin with Love Compliments &c if I mean not to forget any one of my friends and acquaintances—whom I always remember with pleasure and gratitude— but here I pause—another side [of paper] would not contain half I wou'd say on so delightful a theme—therefore I leave it to your discretion—to deal them out in Quantity as you think proper—only those to your good Man and mine [Thomas Blount]—which must be first and pure, Polly desires hers to be included here,—tell my Old Man I expected a little more respect and attention than to omit riding.

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

NEW BERN Feb 1st Day. 1781

Dr Brother,

I wrote you a few days ago when I expected to sail early next morning²⁰ certain—but you find I am yet here & how to acct—for our detention I know not—Owners Storm & calms seem to have conspired against us However the Brig. went down the day before yesterday & we have now only the difficulty of getting away her lighter²¹ that goes from here in lieu of that which was to come to Washington (which was lost at the Bar) to surmount. When we shall accomplish that [I] will not pretend to say. But be assured that my prayers & entreaties shall not be wanted to urge

²⁰He was probably attempting to get a cargo of goods through to the West Indies. Biographical accounts of him mention the fact that he was a prisoner during the war. Diligent search has been made for accounts of this incident, but no information on the question has been gained.

²¹The only satisfactory entrance to North Carolina for seagoing vessels, with the exception of Wilmington, near the South Carolina boundary, was Ocracoke Inlet. High sand bars at Ocracoke made it difficult for heavily loaded vessels to pass through the inlet. As a result, smaller vessels, called lighters, were sent to take parts of the load of outgoing and incoming vessels, to assist them in getting over the bar. Crittenden, *Commerce of North Carolina*, 22-23.

the owners & Captain to dispatch her at the earliest moment possible—a most tremendous acc^{ot}. of the arrival of a British Fleet at Wilmington was six or eight days ago proclaimed here since which we have not heard a syllable further about it—I believe it erroneous as does most of the inhabitabts if this Town—no news from Virginia from which & your long silence I think I may justly infer that the greater part of the world is deprived of the faculty of speech & art of writing. I heard yesterday of Readings [Major Reading Blount] being at Halifax—Since writing you last I have reason to make use of 4000 Dollars more than I gave you on acct of which please place to the credit of the same acc^t. as directed before—The am^{ot}. of my outfits for the present voyage notwithstanding I have been un commonly frugal is incredible to tell—I speak within bounds when I say £12000 is the least—Should I get taken of which I fear thres too much probability my loss will be great indeed—too heavy for me [2] for me to sustain—Mr. Stanly²² has been so obliging as to tell me that in that case if I will repair to Phil^a. I shall have the consignments of a vessel or two the most valuable he may have if I please to accept the offer—which I at present think of doing provided I can get there with the same convenience that I can here—& even should I make a safe voyage & he will give me (which he promises) the consignments of a good vessel & cargo to the West Indies or Europe & from thence here—I think I shall accept it but in the mean while shall remit you the proceeds of my first voyage from Phila—you may not expect to hear from me again 'till my arrival at that place unless a favourable oppy. offers from the Bar—My love to Sister Polly & Compts to all enquiring friends I am

Your affectionate Brother

THOS BLOUNT

Addressed: John Gray Blount

Mercht

Washington

²²John Wright Stanley was one of the most prominent of the merchants and shippers of North Carolina. He was also judge of the Maritime and Mercantile Court of Port Beaufort. He died at New Bern, his home, in June, 1789. *State Gazette of North Carolina*, June 18, 1789.

*William Savage*²³ to *John Gray Blount*

BATH TOWN 23d July 1781

Sir

This Morning the Express which I sent to Edenton returned—and underneath is an Extract from one of the letters which I received by him—dated the 21—

“This Town has never been so much alarmed as at this Moment—A Party of the British have been to South Quay and have burnt all the Warehouses at that place from thence it is said they proceeded to Pitch Landing²⁴ where a large quantity of stores and Merchandise have fallen into their hands—There are Several letters come to Town this day that mention a large Party being destined for this place which is the reason of our present Consternation—Matters now begin to have a very dreary look with us—tho I am of the opinion still, that We shall escape a Visit at present—When Lord Cornwallis was attacked at James Town by General [Anthony] Wayne:—the Marquis had Information that all his Lordships Army, except the Rear Guard, were Embarked, This intelligence (which proved false) induced General Wayne to make the attack—and he was in a very short time surrounded by the whole British army—But Bravely extricated himself by Cutting his way thro them tho [2] tho he lost a Number of Men and part of his Artillery—Lord Cornwallis’ Head Quarters is now at Suffolk what his intention can be for Coming there time only can tell.”

So far, [This is] the News from Edenton—I received letters yesterday from Newbern—which mention—all the Heavy artillery at Wilmington being embarked—that the merchants there had Shiped all their Goods—and some Vessels had Actually

²³Rodman Manuscripts in North Carolina Department of Archives and History. William Savage was a merchant of Edenton. Governor Caswell described him to President Rutledge of South Carolina as a “Gent. of great merit.” The purchases by his firm from a French vessel which was able to get to America during the Revolution caused amazement because of the great volume of the cargo. Many of the goods purchased were resold to the state for the use of the soldiers. *State Records of North Carolina*, XI, 496; XIII, 47, 155; Miscellaneous Papers, Series One, 1765-1787 (North Carolina Department of Archives and History).

²⁴In Northampton County, North Carolina.

Sailed—and that everything had the appearance of a General Embarkation—

If any News at Washington—please to Inform me

I am Sir

Your most obedient

humble Servant

W SAVAGE

Addressed: John Blount Esquire

Washington

Reading Blount to John Gray Blount

SALISBURY July 25th, 1781—

Dear Brother:

By express this moment arrived from General Sumner²⁵ at Charlotte, he informs me that on his arrival at Charlotte, he rec'd an express from Genrl [Nathanael] Green informing him that In our last movements to wards Charlestown we took 140 prisoners, and Killd, & wounded near 100 men and destroyed vast quantity of Baggage and Stores, and took upwards of 200 horses, our Militia behav'd to admaration, and lost very few Men in the action (now weither [whether] it was our main Body or Lee & Sumter I cant tell, but rather believe it was the latter as I saw a letter from Green, a few days past that gave an account of His being below Rowan [sic])

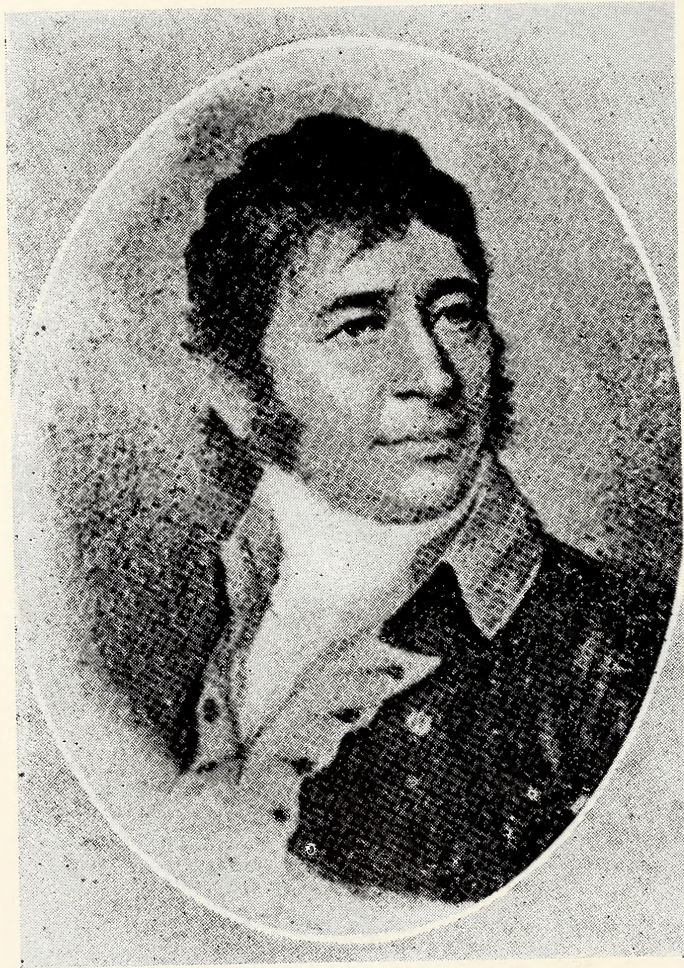
I have nothing more worth writing at present so make my Compliments to my Fathers family Bills [His brother, William Blount] & yours & all inquiring Friends

I remain Your

ever loving Brother

R Blount

²⁵Colonel Jethro Sumner, commander of the third battalion of North Carolina troops in the Continental Line. Thomas Blount married his daughter Mary (Jackie) in his second marriage. Jethro Sumner Papers (Southern Historical Collection, Library of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill); Connor, *History of North Carolina*, I, 439.



READING BLOUNT

1757-1807

P-S if you can change my scarlet for Blue shirt & send it on by Capt Armstrong²⁶ [2] & again send express to my Father the nuse [news]

R B

Public Service

Addressed:

Mr. John G. Blount
Washington
Rg Blount

*Reading Blount to [Jethro Sumner?]²⁷
Copy**

Salesburg [Salisbury] Augt 9th 1781

I have the pleasure to inform you that Capt Goodman²⁸ arrive at this post on the Eighth with about one hundred & twenty Men, on the same day the Armes arrive from Virgt—which I shall take on to you, as they are, unless ordered to the Contrary, I shall be able to leave this in about five days & not sooner as many of the Soldiers are Barfooted & cant March without shoes. I have percurr'd an Order from the Cloathes Gen^l for as many shoes as well doe them by sending to Davidsons for them.

You should of been furnish'd with a Gen^l Return of what men there is at this post, but Capt Goodman has not had time to make me one since he arrive—if you have any Orders relative to the armes or Trupes I shall be happy to receive them as soon as poss^{le}.

P S

I am Sir

no stores for our

Yours

Brigadere not as much as will serve one
Officer

READING BLOUNT

R B

[2] P.S. We shall have upwards of one hundred stand of armes that has been refited which I shall bring on as Colo. Wotten²⁹ has no armes they will answer him very well—

*This was either an undelivered letter or a draft which was copied by Reading Blount.

²⁶James Armstrong was colonel of the ninth regiment of North Carolina Continental forces. Archibald Henderson, *North Carolina: The Old North State and the New* (2 vols. Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1941), I, 329.

²⁷Miscellaneous Papers, Series One, I, 1755-1788, September 20-November 20, 1788, 24.

²⁸Captain William Goodman. Wheeler, *Historical Sketches*, I, 80.

²⁹Shadrack Wooten. Wheeler, *Historical Sketches*, I, 80.

*Thomas Blount to William Blount**

HEADQUARTERS August 22d, 1781

Sir,

Our situation this morning was thus, Cap Jno Gorham with 150 infantry posted at Genl Bryans' mill—100 horse of which I, at the request of Genl [Richard] Caswell,³⁰ had taken command went this morning, by his order, to Wilson Blounts' plantation³¹ (for the benefit of forage & a good pasture) from whence I was order'd with them to proceed to & take post at Nixon's Mill 7 miles above Bryant's³²—I accordingly started there at 12 o'Clock & after detaching 40 of them under the command of Major Cray to Trent for ammunition proceeded with strict attention to orders—on my way got intelligence from 4 Tories we took by deception, that Com[pany] with 300 men for whom they took us had crossed just below the Core place where I was order'd to take post—This induced me to make a pilot of one of the Tories & go on the lower side of the stream with all possible speed to Bryan's Mill to prevent Gorhams being surprised but when We got to the road leading from [2] New Bern—was informed by Mrs. Goodwin that a very considerable body of British infantry & horse had passed about an hour [earlier]—The only alternative then left me, knowing Gorhams³³ business before that time done, was to attempt a retreat over this ferry—which I effected without any loss (except men detach'd after two men supposed to be spies not yet heard of—one of which was mounted on Skinner & another on Warren—circumstances induce me to believe that they

*Rodman Manuscripts.

³⁰General Richard Caswell, prominent Revolutionary leader of North Carolina and governor of the province (1776-1780, 1785-1787), was one of the closest friends of the Blounts. Caswell had made a name for himself prior to the Revolution; surveyor, lawyer, county clerk, and member of the legislature (1754-1771), of which he was speaker for two years, he was already well known in North Carolina. He built up a military record through the War of the Regulation, 1771, and the Revolution. He was a colonel of the North Carolina Partisan Rangers, 1776-1777, and became major general of the state militia. In addition to his office as governor, Caswell was president of the Provincial Congress and of the state constitutional convention; delegate to the Continental Congress; and comptroller general of his state. Edmund Kimball Alden, "Richard Caswell," *Dictionary of American Biography*, III (1943), 571; C. B. Alexander, "The Training of Richard Caswell," *The North Carolina Historical Review*, XXIII (January, 1946), 13 ff; "Richard Caswell: Versatile Leader of the Revolution," *The North Carolina Historical Review*, XXIII (April, 1946), 119 ff; "Richard Caswell's Military and Later Public Services," *The North Carolina Historical Review*, XXIII (July, 1946), 287 ff.

³¹See above, p. 4, n. 8.

³²Bryans Mill was up the Neuse Road from New Bern. Major James Craig, in command of British forces, took possession of New Bern. His men committed a number of depredations on property in that area, including burning the homes of some prominent citizens [William Heritage, General (William?) Bryan, and William Cox] and robbing others. About a month later, Craig was reported as being in Wilmington, North Carolina, in command of about four hundred men. *State Records of North Carolina*, XV, 626,634,655.

³³Gorham's plight was attributed to the failure of the expected aid from the cavalry, which had had the misfortune of coming on too much liquor. *State Records of North Carolina*, XV, 626-628.

were taken or kill'd—We brought off our Tory prisoners and should they have exercised any cruelties on their prisoners I will certainly retaliate on them—Gorham behaved well—without firing a Gun finding himself surrounded marched off his men in good order & with the assistance of Genl Bryan for a guide brought all but 5 safe to this place—we here have about 300 men besides my horse—Caswell will be here tonight or early in the morning to take command it at present lies in Colo Graham—[3] Your messengers impatience constrains me to cease sooner than I wish—their rout [the Tories] we are unable to determine—my fathers I fear will fall in their way—upon the whole I think the escape of our infantry as well as horse miraculous

I wish to hear from you am exceedingly fatigued, hungry wet & busy

Yours T[ruly]
THOS BLOUNT

Addressed:

Thomas Blount to William Blount
Piney Grove

*Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount**

Sir, SOUTH QUAY Septem. 4th 1781

I this morning dispatched an Express to Richmond with letters from Baker & Blow to their Correspondents there soliciting them to use their interest to procure a Commission for the Tyger Gally³⁴ in order to secure which they inform'd them that they own'd a part of her. I would have gone myself but am too unwell to undertake so long a journey—The man thats gone is a person who is always imployed on particular occasions of that nature & Baker & Blow think that he will certainly do the business as effectually as I could do it myself—Those Gentleman have taken every precaution to remove all difficulties but I am notwithstanding fearful that [the] attempt will miscarry—What then shall I do? no other alternative remains but to get one from our Governor [Richard Caswell]—did I not suppose him to be at this time at New Bern or on his way to Wilmington [I] would dispatch another Express after him that however I presume you have taken care to do & will pursue the proper steps to convey

*Rodman Manuscripts.

³⁴The Blounts were fitting this vessel for privateering.

the Commission to this place or Edenton as early [2] as possible—I shall use every exertion in my power to get her a Commission but don't depend too much on my success for if I fail at Richmond She must return immediately to Edenton & there wait your orders—It is here reduced to a certainty that a french Fleet consisting of the following ships (vizt. 1 of 100 Guns 3 of 80: 17 of 74. 6 of 64. 1 of 50. 1 of 40 [and] 3 frigates & one Cutter, with 6000 Land forces, commanded by Count De Grasse—have arrived in Chesapeake Bay & landed 3000 of their Troops at or near James Town—Cornwall's 'tis said is entrenching himself at York Town & surrounded on all sides. there appears to be all but a certainty of his being Bourgoynaded [cut to pieces with a burgoyne, a sort of ax carried by soldiers] very soon—after the return of my Richmond express I shall take the trouble of going to Camp to bring you certain Accots. & in the interim shall give you what come[s] to hand, if opportunities offer—This British have upwards of 200 Sail of Vessels, said to be very valuable, now in York river a fine Harvest for the Tyger. every days delay is attended with the loss of Thousands of pounds sterling perhaps [3] to the owners of her—all the Whale boat that could be got here are hauling over to James River to make privateers of—a very extensive trade is carried on here Tobacco comes down in great quantities for which Salt is given at the rate of 1 Bushl p 100 Cwt [sic] allowing 2 Bushls to the Hhd. I have not seen Billie Baker but am told he is much better & gone to Richmond—Colo Baker's family are all well.

I am as usual Yours & c

THOS BLOUNT

Addressed:

John Gray Blount

Jacob Blount, Jr., to John Gray Blount

TARBOROUGH Septem 24th. 1781

Dear Brother,

By a letter from Colo Hall³⁵ to Mr. Ed Hall we learn that Genl Green has had a very bloody Ingagement with the British Kill'd 260.. Wounded 400—took 390 Prisoners & drove them 6 miles,

³⁵No definite information concerning Colonel Hall has been found.

Colonel Washingtons³⁶ Horse is very much cut to pieces every Officer killd or wounded but one Capt he himself wounded slightly. Letters from Camp say that the Campane is Closd for this season without some Reinforcement to the British & likewise to Genl. Green as he was much damagd. Genl Washington certainly arived today week at Williamsburgh with 8000 Troops, He also mentions that by some Gentlemen from Philadelphia they learn that Colo. Laurance³⁷ had arive[d] from Holland and had done the business that he [2] was sent to Negotiate to the satisfaction of Congress. he brought a large sum of money, Cloathing Arms & amunition sufficient for to Cloathe & arm all the Continental Troops. I doubt it wont be in my power to purchase the Tobo[tobacco] for Long by the time as there comes none down. Mr. [Richard] Blackledge told me that Abner Neal was to go out in the brig & if I am to go let me know by the first opportunity I shall hold myself in readiness to go. A List of the Officers Killd & Wounded [is given below]

JACOB BLOUNT

Kill d	Wounded	
Colo Campdell	GenL. Pickens	Martin
Major Rutherford	Colo. Henderson	Giles
Capt Dobson	Howard	Moore
Porterfield	Middleton	Tenn
Goodman	Polk	Dinson
Goodwin	Maj. Edmonds	Dudley
Lieut. Polk	Capt Morgan	
Husk	Ewing	
Dillin		

[3] P. S. The number of Privateers is not yet known

J. BLOUNT

Address: Mr. John G. Blount

Mercht

Washington

³⁶Colonel William Washington of South Carolina, who rendered great aid to General Greene in the southern campaign, particularly at the battle of Eutaw Springs, September 8, 1781, which Jacob Blount is probably describing here. David Duncan Wallace, *The History of South Carolina* (New York: The American Historical Society, Inc., 1934), II, 290-291.

³⁷Probably Henry Laurens.

*William Savage to John Gray Blount**

BATH 29 October 1781

Sir

By Capt. Boyd yesterday and Mr. Henderson this day—I understand that you have not yet, at Washington a Confirmation of the fate of Lord Cornwallis and the English Army under his Command—which induces me to Send off an Express to you, with the following Extract from a Letter which I only received this Morning from Doctor Dickinson³⁸—dated the 22d Current

“Few things in this Life could give me more Heartfelt pleasure than to Congratulate You on the important Capture of General Lord Cornwallis which I now do—He Surrendered with the army under his Command on Wednesday [The next word is illegible] Instant at 4 oClock in the afternoon [The manuscript is torn here. ———] So far the Doctor writes whose intelligence may be relied on I think in every particular—If any News Your way I should be glad to Know it—I am with Regard Sir

Your most obedt

Serv

W SAVAGE

Address: John Blount Esquire

Washington

By Negro Jonas—Express

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

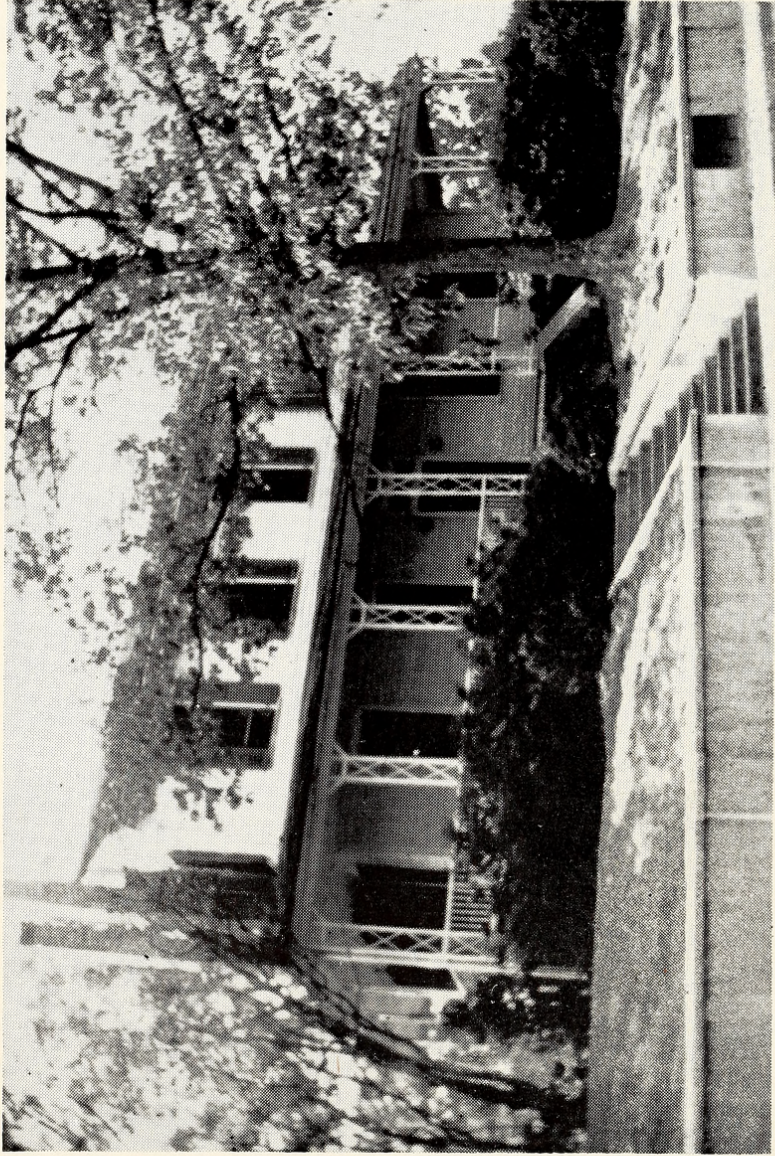
TARBOROUGH April 3rd. 1782

Sir

I arrived here on Saturday last—my long stay was occasioned by *her* [Martha Baker] being from home which obliged me to pursue to Surry County about 15 miles above Smithfield I was received with gladness & She has at length fixed on Tuesday the 4th day [of] June for the completion of that tremendous work so long since begun—Her Father, Mother, Sister & Brothers unanimously approve the alliance marriage as I hope mine also will—I shall write my Father on the subject by Jacob who takes

*Rodman Manuscripts.

³⁸This might have been John Dickinson of Pennsylvania. There were, however, Dickinsons in North Carolina, including Dr. Samuel Dickinson of Bertie County. Affidavit of William Gray, August 9, 1797, Gray Papers, 1768-1864 (Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina Library).



THOMAS BLOUNT HOME
Now the Community House, Tarboro, North Carolina.

leave of us Tomorrow morning We wish to have you conduct your business in such manner as to go in about that time with Sister Polly [John Gray's wife]. & *she* strenuously urged me to carry in Louisa [Louisa Blount, his sister] too. that, however, as I shall be dependent on you for assistance with Horses & Billy [his brother William] for a carriage, cannot I think be accomplished—her sister Polly [Baker] will come with her to remain & her Brother Dick who is to be married on the 25th May to Miss Judah Bridger, & his Lady will accompany them The affair to be conducted with privacy—I would accompany Jacob down but conceive it absolutely necessary to be continually here to expedite the repairing of my house which I fear I shall not be able to have done in time—do endeavor to prevail with Palmer to continue his workmen here until its finished they shall not be idle if I can procure materials for them to work on—& my anxiety will stimulate me to uncommon exertions—Billy recommends the bestowing of more work on it than you thought necessary which coincides with my opinion for with little more it may be made quite a convenient & very respectable ho[m]e however without it it will be but [2] a bad makeshift considering that I shall be confined to it at least 2 or 3 years & probably longer Is it not now high time to think of furnishing it? What shall I do for chairs &c? Such articles nor indeed no article of furniture can be got here therefore you are my only dependence I wish I could ship in the brigg a hhd or two of Tobacco to be laid out in such articles as are to be had in the West Indies of which Sister Polly will please furnish Jacob with a memorandum Tobacco comes in slowly not a hhd was purchased by Jacob in my absence & I have got only one since my return[.] 5 pecks [of] Salt p cwt. [sic] are given [for tobacco] at the Quay & [at] Pitch Landing 21½ Gals Rum & 20 lb sugar. had we not better give the same in Salt & something near the same in Rum & sugar than let it pass to New Bern or go to them places? let me hear by the first oppory [opportunity]. Rum is in demand & will command either Tobacco or hard Money quicker than any other Article tho' a supply of salt must also be kept up[.] May I purchase Tobacco for hard money on a short credit even at 20/ (?) or three Dollars—I got nothing from Billy Baker. He says [Richard] Blackledge owes him 9000 lb Tobo. for which he will give me an order if he has by him to retain it—his disease increases & his Physicians say must soon terminate his life The Note is in the hands of Dick Bake[r] who will

take advantage of every oppy. to get it or any part of it, but I think the chance bad for he has not a hhd. of Tobo. at the quay [South Quay] or any other place than any person I have seen knows o[f] & is indebted to many persons—I think there are twenty chances to one against the Dick's returning[.] the bay is full of British privateers 12 or 15 were named to me by Captⁿ. just [returning] from Baltimore to Smithfield that narrowly escaped [3]

Be pleased to inform me of the Success of my adventure. the Tyger & whether it answered the desired purpose[.] if it did I shall think my damned bad luck has turned with Compts to all your family

I am

affectionately yours

THO BLOUNT

inclosed is an order from Mr. Hall for 32 Barrels corn he wishes it to be immediately presented

Addressed: Mr. John Gray Blount

Mercht

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

TARBOROUGH April 21st., 1782

Sir,

Yours of yesterday by Mr. Blackledge came to hand last night—the generous plan you propose for getting Madam [his bride-to-be, Martha Baker] home is highly pleasing to me & such as I think most eligible, but how shall I contrive to bring her sister Polly with her? thats a manner [matter] that demands my attention because I have been warned of her desire to come. can't our chair be rigged also if no better measure can be devised? Milly [Mrs. Abner Neale] I presume will remain there for a while if she goes, or even that plan will be defective The separation on my part can be borne & I cannot suppose that it will give her more pain than myself—Reading [Major Reading Blount] will doubtless be happy to accept the command you offer him—he will certainly arrive on time. will his Brigade take this rout? I think it best because the road is equally as good & the stages much better from hence—We can reach Horns the first day & the desired Haven next, if this plan meets your approba-

tion & theirs, unless they go on before me, they ought to be here by the 29th May for on the 30th I begin my march at six o'Clock in the Morning—I shall take with me Yorwick & Tristram [his horses] & have Jacobs mare led unless I dispose of her in the interim[.] Therefore wish to have her sent back as [soon (the manuscript is torn here)] as she has served the purpose for [which] you want her—Halifax fair be[gins] the 13th [of] May if I can spare [her, I shall] carry her up for sale or perhaps may send her by Mr. Bignall—pray let her be carefully attended to—I think there's not a doubt I shall be able to procure materials necessary for carrying on work [repairing the house] here as they are wanted therefore I will keep Jno Jones when he comes up—Mr. Linton³⁹ writes to Palmer⁴⁰ what he expects from you I am to have glass from Billy [his brother William] Blount[.] it rests with Palmer & you to get it from Piney Grove when an oppy. offers—Tobacco comes in slowly. I have now only 3 hhd. here 2 of which were purchased by Mr. Barber of a Mr. Cheek on whose acct. I know not no notes were granted for them—but Mr Penn [*sic*] will give them up—I have at present only abt [about] 30 Gallons [of] Rum, it retails very fast & much might be disposed of by Btl. [bottle?] or hhd. in a short time. in short it will command ready money when nothing else that we have will—I am very glad to find that you have interested Jno & Tho Blount in the Brig Young—I have paid Sterling Dupree £33.6.8 & taken his receipt for that Sum in full for 50 Barrels of Corn to be del^d. agreeable to contract you may sent it [to] me when convenient to yourself—I am necessitated to send to South Quay this week for cloth & other necessities for the occasion as well as to enquire something respecting the ring License &c. which, when there I omitted—I much dread the parade & would willingly expose myself to a heavy cannonade[o]ne hour to be exempt from it & have the [bus]iness as effectually done—Mr. George [manuscript torn] told me other day that he did not intend to act as Guardian to Polly Barber & applied to me for cloathes for her & the amt. of his account. What's to be done in this matter? I have only recd. for the Etsate abo[ut] one hundred Dollars. I wish to receive your instructions concerning it

³⁹Wheeler mentions a William Linton, who was chosen an ensign by the Provincial Congress at Halifax, 1776. Wheeler, *Historical Sketches*, I, 80.

⁴⁰Joseph Palmer of Piney Grove, the home of William Blount at this time. See the biographical introduction to this volume.

In a letter to my Father by Jacob I informed him of my intended alliance [marriage] & asked his approbation which he gave in his answer, in terms expressive of the utmost joy I also informed Wm. Blount of it when here on his way to Hillsborough but omitted asking [him] the loan of his Carriage

If Reading comes to see you soon pray send him up here I am extremely anxious to see him before we meet on the journey With Compts to your Family & all enquiring Friends I am

as usual

Yours O.[bedient]

THOS BLOUNT

William Bailey Smith⁴¹ to John Gray Blount

HARTFORD 6th May 1782.

Dear Jack./

by your Brother I am informed That you have Repeatedly. wrote. me. . in the back Country,. I never. Recev^d. a line from you Since Seventy Seven..tho. that never occasion^d no neglect in me when. in my power to serv you

However. I Located your preemption on the Improvement made. by you in Seventy Six on .. Busheres [sic] Creek—. I intend [to go] out the later end of this summer. in order to Survey—and if your improvements Should be taken by a pryer Claim. I Shall move your warrant to Green River—or som of its Branches—this is all on that Score I am to tell you there is a great change. in [the] county of kentucky since you were there from that of. a few inhabitants to Thousands. of brave Men—. which Renders very Secure traveilleng in [2] [thr]ough the neighbouring [territory]. there is also a Settlement formd—on Cumboreland—River. in and about the french Lick—.

I am going down. the Mississippi to new orleans. this next faul, to Explore a little of the Country Round. the natches I am flattered with the thoughts of finding Some great thing in that Country that of being near. the Spanards will make in favour at a future day.—I have but one thing moore to observe. I am in great health: and intend to Visit you Soon., you must Excuse

⁴¹William Bailey Smith was one of the commissioners to extend the line between Virginia and North Carolina in 1779. *The North Carolina Booklet*, III (January, 1904), 38. As this letter indicates, he was with John Gray Blount at Transylvania. Archibald Henderson, *The Conquest of the Old Southwest* (New York: The Century Company, 1920), 222.

me for. not. giving you my. history at large Since I saw. you,
as the tail would be Teagious—your. old friend.—

[3] Floyed is [married to] a Half Breed and Settled at the falls.
of Ohio [A] good maney of. your. old acquaintance is gone. to
the other-world—.. my good. Sir Excuse me for my head is fild..
with the thoughts of Extending the Limits of our, new. world.
or forming a new. one. that it employs chief as. all. my Study—
I have a few Volunteers or the weather fire brands. now wating
for the Execution of this Expedition.—

I am Sir with my greatest wishis your. most Obedient

Humble Servant

WM. BAILEY SMITH

N. B. pray if possable promise me a piece. of Good linning.
against I come down. I am as [a]bove. W^m B. S.

Reading Blount to John Gray Blount

BLOUNT HALL Augt. 5 1782

I received yours dated first instant in which you mention
[that] your Substitute is a very handy boy & fiting for a waiter
if so, [I will] gladly take him as a Cook, but I must take Moses
with me in preference to any boy that I can git

Your advice, as well as the advice of Bill & Tom, shall be my
guide as nigh as in my pow[er] lies and shall ever acknowledge
myself Obl[i]ge to you for your advi[ce] in the present case &
all others, the vices you hint to me I well know to be growing
ones in me, as well as all others and I see them dayly before my
Eyes.⁴² I intend calling at Wilmington & Staying some time just
as times may suite, The men will goe on immediately under the
Commdt of Capt. Raiford so that there will [2] not be any time
lost to them everything came Safe to hand that you sent by
White return my thanks to Palmer for my chest:

My father sends his Pork to New Bern tomorrow so that I shant
send down my waggon

I remain Dear Brother

Yours to Command

R BLOUNT

P. S. Make my respects to Sister Polly & the Family

Addressed: Mr. John G. Blount

Washington

⁴²This is an interesting example of the closeness of this family and of the responsibility assumed by the brothers for each other.

Samuel Henderson⁴³ to John Gray Blount

GUILFORD COUNTY 12th Augt 1782

D John

Your Favour by Maj^r. Nelson⁴⁴ came to hand. true it is, am settled in Guilford [County], (or rather stay here) his information respecting Loss of Property at Kentuckey was true. however fatal it was, to a poor Devil who had little enough at best yet I bear with such Accidents with Fortitude well Knowing that every thing that is is Wright, your Kind offer of Bearing part in my distress, I sensible feel, Yet sir I can inform you when I set down Coolly and reflect on that delightful Country and the Benefits I one day promise myself from its Beuty and Fertility that all my Loss Vanish and then Sir am Rich as My Lord—Maj^r Nelson has opened his and your Plans of [settling?] Land on Cumberland he also informed me you had proposed myself a partner I have had the Matter in contemplation ever since and am rather Doubtfull for my own observations, that it will sometime before that Scheame can be brought to Bear the officers and Soldiers Land must be first Layd out which will not be done until Nexfall [next fall] come a year if you will only consider one Moment what Provision is made by our Assembly youl see its Imposible for it to be done this fall it will be the work of Six months in that Country youl ready Know that Six hunters cannot supply 130 men in Provision—and the Assembly hath made no provision for these men, however the time will come when such a thing may be done, I am ready and willing to stand Ready, at alltimes. I Propose going to that Country [2] this fall at which time I will make a number of Locations which will do at a futer day. I cannot promise myself any Great advantage because it will not be in my Power to raise any Quantity of Specie and I presume the Land office will be opened on that Plann however I will do every thing in my Power to assist you in this Favourabl Scheme, youl be Kind enough to Let me Know your Sentiments the first opportunity, you may rely on my going out this fall or winter,—

I am this day selling [setting] of to the salt works on New River⁴⁵ to purchase as much salt as will salt a Biff [beef] or two, and if you did not live so far out of my road I would call

⁴³See above, p. 5, n. 9.

⁴⁴Probably John Nelson. Wheeler, *Historical Sketches*, I, 79.

⁴⁵There was a New River on the Virginia boundary and it is probably to this one that he refers. *Colonial Records of North Carolina*, V, 357, 1146.

on you where I could once more take you by the hand and take a Harty Drink in the Fear of God, and talk all our old affairs over, you[r] old Acquaintances at Kentuckey are all disperst some Kild some runaway you would not Know Boonsborough was you to see it Now there is not two persons there you would Know I shall tire you with this damd Nonsense I hope youl excuse it. Now sir for another Matter if you think you can aford to trust me for few Articles I hope youl send them by Mr. Nelsons Waggon, and I will settle fair if I never pay[.] the Articles I want is about 25^{lb} of B[rown] Sugar, 6 yards of Linen such as would cost in good times 14 or 15 pence. Sterling a yard and one yard of Black silk such as will do for womens Bonnets. M^{rs} Henderson cannot goe to church util she gets a Bonet. I sometimes want your Diposition respecting a Marige Contract which is offen denied⁴⁶

I am Dir John your Hum^l Sert
SAM^l HENDERSON

William R. Davie⁴⁷ to John Gray Blount

HALIFAX, September 1st. 1782

D. Sir

I would be greatly obliged to you to inform me by the first opportunity who are the legal representatives of Ja^s. Salter—And also who are the Executors of Robert Salter as I have bond due to the estate of Montgomery at Salisbury in my Hands—,

We are devlishly frightened here at the prospect of the approaching assembly—Every body fancies they hear the press

⁴⁶Henderson may refer to his own marriage, which is said to have taken place in Kentucky with John Gray Blount acting as parson's clerk. Lida Tunstall Rodman, "Residence of John Gray Blount, Esq., Built in 1778—Taken Down—1923, Washington, N. C.," *The North Carolina Booklet*, XXII (July-October, 1922, January-April, 1923), 50.

⁴⁷William R. Davie was a soldier in the Revolution and governor of North Carolina. He was born in England and settled at Halifax, North Carolina, in 1782. He is called the "Father" of the University of North Carolina because of his services in connection with its founding. He was a conservative in politics and in general harmony with the Federalist administrations. He went as a peace commissioner to France in 1799. In later years, when the Blounts became ardent Jeffersonians, Davie's attitude toward them was as bitter as his politics. Once when the legislature was balloting for Blount, Davie thought that "God Almighty made that man on purpose to disgrace his country." C. C. Pearson, "William Richardson Davie," *Dictionary of American Biography*, V (1930), 98-99; J. G. de Roulhac Hamilton, "Letters of William Richardson Davie: A Memoir . . . Followed by his Letters . . ." *James Sprunt Historical Monographs* (Chapel Hill: Published by the University, 1907), No. VII, 27.

groaning under the iniquitous burden of a second emission⁴⁸ The poor Merchant already anticipates the horrors of seeing his Cent per Cent vanish like *Magic* at a Juglers ball—,, We must by [all] means [2] emit more, some measures should be taken to have it restruck on a good paper, such as the European Bank-securities are impressed on—,,

I shall see you at Newbern

I am w^h great

respect D Sir

your mo^t obd

WILLIAM R. DAVIE

Addressed: John Gray Blount, Esq.

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

TARBOROUGH September 13th 1782

Sir,

Jacob in coming here unavoidably hurt your mare's back in such a manner that no remedy could be found to prevent it being hurt much worse by riding—this circumstance, with the apparent improbability of his going up the Country being in any degree Serviceable to you, induced me to advise him to return to Washington where I know he may be benefited by the study of navigation—I have not a horse to lend him if I had he should o[f] continue[d] his rout, tho I believe your chief aim in sending him is nearly accomplished & hope it will be quite so before he leaves this place—I have the fullest confidence that he will act in conformity to our Wishes—in his affair with——— This Evening the great trial comes an[d] he is this moment going with his friend & confidants Speeds to wait on them from Mr. Halls' & I shall know Tomorrow whether he behaves with

⁴⁸An emission of £100,000 was passed by the assembly for use in 1783. William Blount introduced such a measure in the house of commons. *State Records of North Carolina*, XIX, 222, 227, 307, 356.

firmness or not⁴⁹—He can inform you fully of the situation of the River & our business at this place—

I am

Yours O——

THOS BLOUNT

Addressed: John Gray Blount

Mercht.

Washington

Fav^d. by Jacob Blount

Mathew Emanuel to John Gray and William Blount

HAVANA 25th Sep^r. 1782

Gentⁿ.

It is some time that I have not had the pleasure to hear from you, & the present chiefly to pray the favor of you to purchase for me six good stout Black Men slaves, & two Black Women⁵⁰, if to be obtained with you at two hundred round Mexico Dollars Each forwarding four of them, that is 3 men & 1 woman by two different opptys [opportunities], & for whose amt. I shall thankfully remit you a Bill on Philadelphia for, or on your advice if any article hence [will] answer at your Markett remit you for my acct. & risk what you may encourage I hope you will serve me on this com[missi]on with assurance that I will be very thankful, & in any or the like [2] occasion [will be] glad to serve you & am with sincere regard——

P. S. Any Consignments you are pleased to procure me I am content to allow you one third of my Commissions——

Sirs your most obed Sert

MATHEW EMANUEL

Cronisboro [sic]

Addressed: Messrs. John & William Blount

Merchts.

New Bern

Nº. Carolina

⁴⁹No further reference to this incident has been found. In all probability Jacob was involved in some romantic venture of which the older brothers disapproved. This is but another example of their paternalism. (See Reading Blount to John Gray Blount, Blount Hall, August 5, 1782, above, p. 27.) Speed's identity is not clear. He is probably Joseph Speed, who was a factor for Richard Blackledge (*State Records of North Carolina*, XXI, 1045). He is mentioned a number of times in the Blount correspondence but only by his last name.

⁵⁰This is one of the few references to the Blounts' trade with the Spanish in the Caribbean. There are some other examples, but in the main the amount was relatively small. Neither were the Blounts extensively engaged in the slave trade. They did buy and sell when their own supplies made it desirable or upon the specific request of some customer or for the collection of a financial obligation; but they never made it an important commercial enterprise, which the nature of their business might have favored.

LETTERS FOR 1783

William Blount to John Gray Blount

PHILADELPHIA January 7th 1783

Dear Sir,

I have received your's of the 10th Dec^r. by Post but as yet hear notting [nothing] of yours wrote as early as September inclosing a Sett of Bills for 535 3/4 Dollars drawn by Mallett and Jewkes¹ on Oliver Pollock.

Mr. Wellborn very readily agreed to pay me the Balance due to Mr. Blackledge—when I want it I shall call and receive it. and that Sum with the sum that my Friend [Benjamin] Hawkins² will lend me will enable me to leave this place which I shall certainly do on or before the 1st Day of February.—

In August last a Commission was granted by the Court of London to Richard Oswald Esquire of the City of London empowering him to treat for and conclude with the Colonies of North America or their Commissioners a Peace or Truce. Our Ministers at Paris refused to treat with Mr. Oswald under this Commission objecting to the word *Colonies* [2] On the 27th September Mr. Oswald produced another Commission from the Court of London dated September 21st empowering him to treat for and conclude with the Commissioners of the Thirteen United States of North America Viz New Hampshire, Massachusetts &c &c a Truce or Peace. On the 14th of October our last Official Accounts are dated (from Paris) when and where the Peace Negotiators appeared to be going on very amicably but by the same Conveyance We are informed by one of the Negotiators that Notwithstanding the peaceable Aspect the Negotiations bore, that he should not believe the British were sinc[e]re in what they said about Peace until they had signed and sealed a Treaty to insure it—In this Business of Peace making there is no less than five different Interests to consult and accomodate so that

¹Mallet & Jewkes were merchants of Wilmington, North Carolina. See Mallet & Jewkes to John Gray Blount, March 7, 1783, below, p. 44.

²Benjamin Hawkins (August 15, 1754-June 6, 1818) was born in Warren County, North Carolina. He studied at the College of New Jersey, where his proficiency as a linguist was so exceptional that Washington attached him to his staff as an interpreter. He represented North Carolina in the Congress of the Confederation (1781-1784; 1786-1787), and was one of the two first United States Senators from North Carolina. He was noted for his humane work with the Indians on the southwest frontier and took part in making treaties with them. In the 1780's the Blounts and Hawkinses were very friendly, especially Hawkins and William Blount. When partisan feeling arose and when Hawkins began to show more interest in the Indians' needs than in the North Carolina land speculators' demands, the feeling cooled and soon became actually hostile. Hawkins remained an ardent Federalist and had little sympathy with the pro-Jeffersonianism which the Blounts adopted. Robert Preston Brooks, "Benjamin Hawkins," *Dictionary of American Biography*, VIII (1932), 413-414.

however sinc[e]re all Parties may be in their wishes to compleat it, It will unavoidably be a Work of considerable time, if effected at all [3] And as to what will be the Event of this Business the People here are much divided in Opinion for my own part my Opinion too frequently goes with my Wishes and no Man more fervently wishes for Peace than I do.—I write to no other of my Friends of this Subject and you may give as many of them Extracts from it as you please, particularly Gov^r. Caswell, James Coor & Doc^r Guion³. My Merchantile Friends I need not mention—Now to yourself & T. & T. O. [Titus and Thomas Ogden]⁴ let me say that the best informed People here are very clear that Peace will arise out of the present Negotiations and of this Opinion I am but as it is truly a Work of great Magnitude I can form no opinion as to the precise time when it may be expected. These letters of this Package will come to you from Edenton by Express & you must pay the Expense. I am

W^m. BLOUNT

Mr. J. G. Blount

Peter Mallett⁵ to John Gray Blount

WILMINGTON, 10th Januy 1783

Sir.

I have received your letter the other day acquainting me of the Sloop that will carry 30 m Staves or 50 hh.d Tobacco I have sent to Mr. Winslow who will be with you before the end of the month. you need not make any purchase for the Noward trade. but if you please have in view two Vessels for Europe one to Sail in March or April the other in may or June. I am told that Tobacco can be had at 32/ in great Quaneties if so I am sure you will make purchases to the best advantage. but by all means

³James Coor of Craven County was very active in the Revolution. He represented his county at the Congress at Halifax (1776), served as a commissioner of Craven County (1780), and was several times a member of the state legislature. He was speaker of the Senate in 1786. *Colonial Records of North Carolina*, IX, xxi; *State Records of North Carolina*, XVI, 89, 119; XVIII, iii. Dr. Isaac Guion was an army surgeon just prior to the Revolution, but resigned in 1775. He gave active service to the state in other capacities during the war. At one time he was charged with irregularities in the use of army funds, but the charges were not sustained and he later attained a position of high esteem and was chosen to the Council of State in 1779. *State Records of North Carolina*, XIII, 31, 474, 738, 788-789; XIV, 229-230.

⁴Titus and Thomas Ogden were merchants of New Bern.

⁵Peter Mallett was a member, with his brother Daniel, of the Mallet & Mallet mercantile firm of Wilmington. The Mallets were extensive merchants and shippers and seem to have had ownership in several different firms, including Mallett & Jewkes of Wilmington. Peter Mallet was under suspicion of being a loyalist sympathizer during the Revolution. He returned to the state from Charleston in January, 1782, was indicted for treason in Wilmington superior court, and was later pardoned and restored to full citizenship. *State Records of North Carolina*, XIV, 625; XVI, 188, 190; XVIII, 213; XX, 609. See also Mallet & Jewkes to John Gray Blount, March 7, 1783, below, p. 44.

Secure all that artical you can. Pork will most certainly be in demand and ansvar at the Havana [2] I am exceedingly sorry that I cannot render you a more faverable account of the Success of you[r] order on Col^o. Young. he doth not pay anything had he have thrown it into my hands it might have been turned to good account in Charleston in almost any provision kind[.] you need not have any hopes of my doing anything with him or Eccles————

Altho money never was more Scarce than it is here since the evacuation of Charleston yet Mr. Toomer⁶ has exerted himself so as to throw I suppose nearly your demand into our hands and incase I find it will be safe to draw on Mr. Pollock I shall send you or your brother a bill for our balance[.] otherways [I will send] the money for Mr. Toomer by Winslow. before he come[s] on we hope to know the true State of Mr. Pollock

I am yours &c

P MALLETT

Addressed: Mr. John Blount

Washington

Mr. Livy.

Notation on back: P. Mallett 10 Jany 83

Peter Mallett to John Gray Blount

WILMINGTON. 16th Jany. 1783

Sir

I am only waiting here for a few days in expectation of Winslow[']s appearance. and to give him proper Instruction. when I shall go to Charlestown. in the mean time I shall Depend on your preperations against the spring. if you find that a small Vessell can be loaded with anything from Chastown that will ansvar your market pray write me altho before my departure I shall write you very fully. and in the meantime. if you can see the Gentlemen who we proposed to take into our Europeing con-

⁶Henry Toomer was a state commissary in Wilmington. *State Records of North Carolina*, XII, 99.

cern⁷. see what sum he wishes to lodge in that way. Our Capital Home now will be in Charlestown. and we will advance largely under your government. altho before the departure of the Europeing Vessell we must meet again—by Mr. W. [Winslow] I shall send you an order to receive what balance remains due us in Philadelphia—

I am your most
Obedient Serv.

Mr. John Blount

P. MALLETT

Addressed: John Blount Esquire
Washington

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

TARBOROUGH Jan^y. 19th 1783

Dear Sir,

I owe Mr. John Barry for a Hat the price of which he is yet to name & he owes me four Dollars won of him at Billiards⁸ by settling the account with him as soon as Convenient after the receipt of this you will infinitely oblige me[.] you told me that he was in your debt which induces me to make this request—observe he applied to me this morning for money—Have you settled the 50 Dollars rec^d. of Pasteur by way of paying Readings debt to Lieut. Pasteur with him yet? if you have not that also is to be taken in your a/c with him

I am

Your Mo. Obed. Serv

THO. BLOUNT

Sister Polly will please deliver this to Jn^o. G. Blount it is directed to her only to deceive Mr. Barry to whom I have already del^d. one letter this morning for him.

THO. BLOUNT

Addressed: Mrs. Mary Blount

Washington

Honored by Mr. Barry

⁷They were planning to experiment in shipping goods to Holland in association with William Van Hasset, a merchant of Amsterdam. *State Records of North Carolina*, XIX, 262. See also Peter Mallet to William and John Gray Blount, Wilmington, May 26, 1783, below, p. 58.

⁸Gambling was very common in North Carolina at this time. There are references to betting on horse races and in playing cards. See Reading Blount to John Gray Blount, April 21, 1783, below, p. 54.

*Valentine Jasper⁹ to John Gray Blount*KINGSTON JAMAICA January 25th. 1783*Dear Sir*

I embrace this opportunity by way of St. Thomases to inform you of my misfortunes having a very Disagreeable passage by hard Contrary winds on 15th Decem^r. made port Rico finding our Selves to Leward of our port [We] Stretcht in for St. Johns when a frigate gave Chase to us and held us in Close Chase for 4 hours after fireing 2 Shot gave over chase[.] we arrived in Cape francois after 22 Days passage where I disposed of my Cargo Tobacco at 10 Dollars Per C^t. Slaves [staves?] at 6 joes¹⁰ per Thousand and Loaded with Salt Sugar and Coffee on the 1st. Jan^r. Saild from the Cape in Company with 12 or 15 Sail of americans on the 3^d Instant at 6 AM a frigate gave Chase to us 4 in Company we Seperated at 11 PM we was Capturd, by the help of her night glass Saw us all night, one of my Consorts was Capturd at 1 AM by the Same Ship Diamond on the 12 Inst^t. was Sent on Shore here to this [2] with Mr. McClure Simon Heel and Rob^t. macky Church Windley the rest was all kept on board with the boy W^m. Jasper to do Ships Duty[.] the Lovey and Cargo Sold here for £530 this Currency, my Compliments to all Enquiring friends, and am Dear Sir your Most Obedient Humble Servant

VALENTINE JASPER

P. S. you will please to inform my Brother I am in good health as I have not time to write as the Boat is just puting off[.] the boy W^m. Jasper was kept on board the Ship

V. J.

Addressed: Mr. John Gray Blount

Merchant N^o Carolina

Washington

Favored by Capt. Nap [sic]

⁹Valentine Jasper was a ship captain in North Carolina who served as a supercargo for the Blounts. His experiences show very well the hazards of trade with the West Indies. The Americans were likely to be seized by either the British or the French. Jasper's difficulty of navigation on this voyage was not an uncommon experience for Americans going to the West Indies. Alice Barnwell Keith, "John Gray and Thomas Blount, Merchants, 1783-1802," *The North Carolina Historical Review*, XXV (April, 1948), 200-201.

¹⁰A Portuguese coin worth about \$8.81 (36s. 2½ d.) There was also the half-joe, which circulated extensively.

*Peter Mallett to John Gray Blount*WILMINGTON. 29th. Jan^y. 1783

Sir

my brother will inform you of the arrival of the Jamaica Shipp Captured and brought in here by the Crew. if you incline to become an adventure[r] my brother can inform you of the particul^r. as well as lend you any assistance¹¹—

I should be glad to know whether Gen^l. [Richard] Caswell inclines to be concerned in the Europeing plan, I hinted the matter which seemed to be his wish.

Mr. Vanhassett¹² wishes his Tobacco to Come into your hands so that their may be sufficient to Load two or three Vessells in the Spring & Summer. which please to pay attention too—I am your &c.

Mr. Blount

P MALLETT

Addressed: Mr. John Blount Esqr.
Washington

*James Hopton to William Hopton¹³*Monday Feb^y. The 4th. 1783

Honard Sir this Comes With my Compliments to you hoping thes few Lines Will find you in good helth as I ham at preasant thanks be to God for It Mr. William Hopton your Most humble Servent Sir I hope both you and your family is Well and by Misfortune I was takeing of [off] Charlestown Bar by Cap^t. Botar In the fortune Gally and Was Carried in too North Carolina into a Place Called Washington and hear Remains Still In Little hopes of ever Seeing you again

Sir I am Your Most

Humble and Dutyfull Servent

JAMES G. HOPTON

Addressed: For Mr. W^m hopton
in Charlestown
North Carolina

¹¹Goods from a captured vessel were sold to local bidders. Sometimes good bargains as well as opportunities for obtaining scarce goods were afforded by such an incident. Mallett probably thought the Blounts would be interested in purchasing from the Jamaica ship.

¹²See above, p. 35, n. 7.

¹³This letter seems to have been sent to John Gray Blount for delivery but failed to reach its destination. It was written by a slave of William Hopton of Charleston, South Carolina. See William Hopton's affidavit, February 21, 1783, and enclosure with letter from Peter Mallett to John Gray Blount, Wilmington, March 10, 1783, below, p. 45.

*Christopher Neale¹⁴ to John Gray Blount*NEW BERN 7th February 1783*Sir*

When I last see you I Expected Mr. Hunt would sell the Tobacco Due him about 9 Hogsheads, but since his affairs I believe will require the Tobacco to be Delivered therefore Desire you will Secure so much that it may be ready when called for

I Refer you to Cap^t. Tinker¹⁵ for the News of this place, My Respects to Mr. Blackledge and your Family's, and am Dear John Your Humble Servant

CHRIS^r. NEALE

Mr. J. G. Blount

Addressed: Mr. John G Blount

Washington

Favored by Cap^t. Tinker*Archibald Maclaine¹⁶ to John Gray Blount*

[February 23, 1783]

Sir

I take the liberty to introduce to your acquaintance Lord Charles Montagu, captain Montagu, captain Barrat and captain Cunningham; british officers brought in here in the large Jamica prize ship.—These gentlemen are paroled by General [Nathanael] Greene to any british port or place where they may choose to go, either in America or Europe; and Lord Charles having been informed that there now at Washington several vessels, some of which may probably bound to Rhode-Island, he

¹⁴Christopher Neale was judge of the court of admiralty for the Port of New Bern in 1776. He was assistant clerk of the Assembly (1776), member of the Provincial Congress, and on the committee that drafted the bill of rights for the North Carolina constitution of 1776. He also served as clerk of court for Craven County and was "employed to revise" the Journal of the House of Commons in 1777. He was a good friend of the Blounts and his son, Abner Neale, was a brother-in-law of John Gray Blount. *Colonial Records of North Carolina*, X, xxiii, 345, 634, 913; *State Records of North Carolina*, XI, 710; XII, 102.

¹⁵Captain Edward Tinker of New Bern. Legislative Papers, 80, House of Commons, November 14, 1788.

¹⁶Archibald Maclaine, a native of Scotland, was a prominent Federalist of North Carolina. He was several times a member of the state legislature and held other offices. He was one of the most colorful figures in North Carolina at this time—well educated, with a keen sense of humor, extremely partisan in politics, and yet personally temperate. He said of himself, "I never could smoke without sickness, & I never could drink anything very hot or very cold." Yet he was quite particular about his snuff. His daughter "Kitty" was the wife of George Hooper. The Hoopers moved to Charleston in the 1780's. *State Records of North Carolina*, XVII, 123-131; 134-135; 144-158; 166-171; 185-186. This and the following letter are taken from the Rodman Manuscripts.

wishes to avail himself of the first good opportunity to get to New York.

I make no doubt, Sir, but you will do every thing in your power to assist his Lordship and the other gentlemen in procuring a convenient passage.

I am with much respect

Sir

Your obedient servant

A MACLAINE

23^d February 1783

Mr John Blount

Addressed: Mr. John Blount Merchant
Washington

Daniel Mallett¹⁷ to John Gray Blount

WILMINGTON February 24th. 1783

Sir,

Lord Charles Montague and some Officers lately Captur'd and brought to this place, having procured a flag to any British port, from Gen^l. Green, and wou'd wish to take their passage in some Vessell going to the Northward, and as I am informed that their is one at your port [Washington] bound to Rhode Island or Boston, have taken the liberty to recommend them to your advice and am well Assured that you will not be deficient in giving every Assistance that's due to Gentlemen in their Situation—I flatter myself that I shall succeed in giting payment for the Bond you gave me, and as I shall be at your place in the course of Eight days hope to have it in my power to acquaint you more particular——

I am Sir

Your Most Obed. Hum^l. Serv.

D. MALLETT

Mr. John Gray Blount

Addressed: Mr. John Gray Blount

Mercht.

Washington

Honored by Lord Montigue

¹⁷A brother of Peter Mallett. See above, p. 33, n. 5.

*Peter Mallett to John Gray Blount*CHARLESTOWN. Feb^y. 25th. 1783*Dear Sir*

I received a line yesterday. from my brother who informs me that the Vessell is nearly ready . . give me leave to mention that she ought to arive at her desired Port before the 13th. march—

my brother also informs me that Pollocks bills still remains unpaid. I cannot conceive that he will suffer them to return at last. yet should we be so unfortunate pray write us to Wilmington as soon as payable. whether Mr. Banks bills on Philadelphia will do. they are in high Credit here—money is exceedingly scarce here—

if the Vessell is not yet gone. desire the Capd. on his arrival here to apply to Mr. Banks [2] before he shows his papers to any person; and that this aught to be done before its known from whence she comes from. Peace is most certainly near at hand. be ware of dry goods—pray press your brother to have ours disposed of for any kind Produce so that it be at Washington. I should suppose those at Halifax had better be returned to Tarrborough. Pork, corn, beeswax Tallow &c. will be in demand—please to offer my Compliments

To Mrs Blount—

I am your most Obedient
humble Servant

MALLETT

Addressed:

Mr. John Blount

Washington

William Campbell¹⁸ to John Gray Blount

WILMINGTON 26 Feb^y. 1783

Mr. John Blount

Sir

I have desired Mr. D Mallett to consult with You respecting my Negroes, If they can't immediately be sold for tobacco I wish to have them sent in by the Return of my Cart that goes with Lord Montague Bagage. I'm in hopes of Selling them to Advantage in South Carolina—

I hope no time will be lost in the dispatch of the Vessell—I wish D. Mallett cou'd make it convenient to go with her think him a person to be depended on—

The Old wench Juda may be sold at Vendue,¹⁹ or any other way you think best. I do not wish to have her return'd

I am

Sir

Your Most Ob^t. Hum Serv.

W^m. CAMPBELL

Addressed: Mr. John Blount

Merchant

Washington

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

TARB^o. March 2 1783

Dear Sir,

I have before me your letters of yesterday & the day before— Captain Suggs boat left here this morning by which you will receive 5hh^{ds}. Tob^o. of ours [and] 25 for Tho. Pearson.²⁰ had I

¹⁸Campbell seems to have been associated with the Malletts in business in Wilmington. He appears to have been a fairly prosperous resident, since he lent the state £420 during the Revolution. Different sums are mentioned at different times, so that it might be inferred that the total was larger. Campbell performed numerous services for the Wilmington area during the war. *Colonial Records of North Carolina*, X, 69, 298, 437, 626. This is from the Rodman Manuscripts.

¹⁹Vendues were auction sales of "lands, negroes, horses, goods, wares and [any—] merchandize whatever, sold by auction or public vendue in the several towns hereafter mentioned" There was an auctioneer or vendue master chosen by the state legislature who sold the enumerated goods on commission, the rates of which were fixed by the legislature. *State Records of North Carolina*, XXIV, 559-560.

²⁰Thomas Pearson of New Bern. *State Records of North Carolina*, XVIII, 5, 9.

not supposed your large flat²¹ to be on the river near this place, should have sent ten hh^{ds}. of our own—all the boats belonging to this place are now down the river therefore I fear it is impracticable to send you any more Tob°. until your own boat arrives, but there shall not a moments delay or an expedient left untried.—I have made a Verbal contract with Phil. Mealor to deliver him 60 Bushels Salt²² here sometime this month if I can get it up, for Tobacco at 2 Bushels p[er] hundred—exclusive of this I have engaged about 20 Bushels in the neighbourhood & wish you to send me at least 100 Bushels if it can be done without loss; indeed I believe much more would Sell if it were now here. Tob°. comes in very fast & most people want chiefly that article [2] If you have Sugar & Iron let me have some of both for I am quite out. I will send all the Tob°. I can to your place—Reading informed me of his haven given his Note to James Bradley for Cash which he wish's us to pay immediately but don't recollect that he mention'd any Sum—Billy [William] Blount went from here this morning homewards, has been 37 days from Phil^a. & knows no more of peace or War than you, I, & every body else do, but thinks probability in favour of peace—Saunders has p^d. no Tob°. & I shall enquire whether he has any at Halifax—Will keep Gustus [Augustus Harvey] longer & hope to teach him something of Book-keeping—he rec^d. your letter & has been very serious ever since—Patsey has been mending ever since she took Doctor Rampkie's medicine & I have the most sanguine hopes of her recovery. the Doctor will leave her Tomorrow morning—We have been purrled [speaking in whispers] to prevent her hearing of Patsey Harvey's death but have happily been so fortunate [as] to prevent her knowing that she

²¹Flats were used extensively for river trade. Some were small and others carried hundreds of barrels of naval stores, tobacco, or other products. John Gray and Thomas both owned flats. See Crittenden, *The Commerce of North Carolina*, 16-17.

²²Salt was very important to the Americans at this time. In the absence of refrigeration it was used as a preservative. Fish, pork, and beef were packed in brine. Most of the finer salt was imported from Europe, but the coarser, called alum salt, was obtained in the West Indies, particularly from Anguilla and Turks Island. It was estimated that the lake in the center of Anguilla yielded 3,000,000 bushels annually "a great part of which was won't to be exported to America." Turks Island was noted for its salt and was one place where the British permitted the American ships to enter. *The American Museum or Universal Magazine* (March, 1791), 121 ff.

has been Sick—I fear the consequence of her knowing it so soon as she inevitably must—[3]

it is a circumstance that I very much lament & the more so that it happened just at this time & in your house[,] Louisa, Polly & Gustus are well & Patsey very much mended all send Love & Comp^{ts}. to you & family

as usual

Your's

THO. BLOUNT

March 4th.

If you want Pewtor I have Superfine hard metal Dishes & plates to Sell for James Porterfield²³ of which you may have at 6/p^{tt}. he also has Basons, close stool pans &c. of which I can get for you I shall [send] Gustus to South Quay the last of this or first of next week to bring Kerra Harvey here & by him will send your letters of H. Cocke & write Jesse & Anthony respecting Tobacco—if Salt can be had on good terms pray don't fail letting me have some soon—

Patsey is still mending——

Addressed: Mr. John Gray Blount

Mercht.

Washington

By Willie [Blount]

William Campbell to John Gray Blount

[March 2, 1783]

Sir

As we dayly are in expectation of of hearing that a treaty of Peace is ratify'd, I think this a very proper time to send out the Vessell, in order to be first at Market—I take the liberty of

²³James Porterfield was a well-known resident of Fayetteville. He was later made a tobacco purchaser of the state and before his death (1795) became greatly interested in land speculation. He probably joined a company with John Gray Blount. George Ogg to John Gray Blount, January 25, 1795, John Gray Blount Papers. *State Records of North Carolina*, XXI, 96.

recommending the bearer Mr. Chareles Lever, as a very proper
person to command a Vessell I am

Your Most Ob^t. hum^l Serv^t.

W^m. CAMPBELL

Wilmington)

2^d. March 1783)

Mr John Blount

Addressed: Mr. John Blount

Merchant

Washington

Forwarded by Mr. Lever

Mallett & Jewkes to John Gray Blount

WILMINGTON. 7th March 1783

Sir

This will be handed you by Major Forsyth.²⁴ who we beg leave
to recommend to your notice—

Major Forsyth will want a quantity of Pork. and we have
recommended him to you and am in hopes you can lend him
some assistance—

We wish you to dispose of our Cloths if possible fer pork or
any article Major Forsyth may want and do for us as you would
wish us to do for you—

we are your most.

obedient Servants

MALLET & JEWKES

Mr. John Blount

Addressed: Mr. John Blount

Merchant

Washington

Favored by Major Forsyth

²⁴No reference found mentions Forsyth's given name. He seems to have served as a messenger a great deal. It is possible that it was Benjamin Forsyth of Stokes County, who had a notable reputation in the Revolution and whose son, James N., was adopted by the State of North Carolina as a child and educated at the expense of the State. James Grant Nelson, ed., *Appleton's Cyclopedia of American Biography* (New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1887), I, 507.

Peter Mallett to John Gray Blount

WILMINGTON 10th March 1783

Sir

If anything can be done in behalf of the owen [owner] of this negro will you please to Inform me[.] the owner Mr. Hopton²⁵ says he was a prisoner in Charlestoun at the time. and that any Certificate from the Governor & Council in his favour he can obtain.

I am your most Obed^t.

Servant.

P MALLETT

Enclosure

Addressed: Mr. John Blount
Washington

SOUTH CAROLINA

KNOW ALL MEN by there Presents that I William Hopton of Charlestown in the state aforesaid Esqr. have made constituted & appointed Peter Mallet & John Blunt Esqr. to be my true & lawful attorney for me and in my name to ask demand sue for Recover a Mulatto Man Slave of mine called James a Bricklayer by trade which Slave I am informed & believe was seized & taken near the bar of Charlestown sometime in the year 1781 by one Capt: Bolos in the Fortune gally & carried to North Carolina & that he is or lately was at Washington in North Carolina, & in case of my said Attorney's recovery of my Slave to send him by any safe Conveyance either by Land or Water to Charlestown to me[.] I hereby giving to my said Attorney my full Power & authority to do everything in their Promises as Fully as I might or could do, if I was present[.] In Witness thereof I have hereto set my hand & Seal this 21st February 1783.

W^m. HOPTON [2]

Sealed & delivered in presence of
Robt Norris

²⁵See above, p. 37, n. 13.

*Peter Mallett to John Gray Blount*WILMINGTON 10th. March 1783*Sir*

I wrote you a few days since by Major Forsyth since which my brother has returned. I was in hopes those negros both of Mr. Campbell and my own were sold so as that you would have been in Cash on our Account.—if you have accation for bills Sign'd by Gen^l. Green on Mr. Morris [Robert Morris] we can procure them and forward you. or in case you wish to have rum here or money in Charlestown this we can accomplish imediately—but if no inconviency arises the money [will be in hand] on the return of Mr. Bain [in] who you will and may place every confidence.

my negro Jonny is ordered to Tarrborough for my negros their and [to] bring them along as they command a great price in S^o. Carolina. Will you [2] please to give him a line to your brother [Thomas] to that purpose and ask him to supply them with meal to last them heither [hither] I find the fate of Pollocks bills not yet determined if your brother wishes. we can send him some of Gen^l. [Nathanael] Greens bills. pray ask him. whether these may be depended on. I wish much that your brother, Tom, would withdraw from Halifax. all our property their as I want to settle with Mr. Tucker who is interested in the first parsel—pray inform us whether you have any Vessell Suitable for a Europeing Voyage as Mr. Vanhassett wishes to Sail within two months for Holland. if not he will return to Charlestown and go by way [of] France—if you wish to become an Importer, peace or Warr you can be supplied by sending your orders to me within two months [3] too any reasonable amount. on good terms. and a proper Credit given altho the remittance must be made in Holland unless we afterwards find it convenient to do other ways—my brother tells me he ordered some waggoner to call for those negros [.] if you have heard that the negros are gone please to order Johnny back——

Will you please to offer my most respectfull
Compliments to your lady——

I am your most Obedient Servant
Mallett

John Blount esqr.

Addressed: Mr. John G. Blount

Washington

Favored by Mr. Bain

*Peter Mallett to John Gray Blount*WILMINGTON. 10th. March 1783

Dear Sir

This will be handed you by Mr. Donald Bain.²⁶ who comes on agreeable to your message by Mr. D. Mallett in order to attend to the former Scheme. and it will be necessary that he attends perfectly to our instructions. as in those Voyages all depends on the good conduct of the marster and those who are intrusted with the business—we flatter ourselves that every step on your part will be taken to give dispatch: and in the Sailing of the Vessell we shall thank you for your account. that we may make you some payments—

we are your most

obed^t. Servants.

P Mallett. for himself

& W. Campbell

over

Mr. Blount

[2] N.B.

Mr. Bain will show you our agreement. and you will please to lend him. proper assistance for the voyage as well as sea Stores—as to the Passongers. they are to pay full frieght for any articles they Shipp but as to their passage, so that they Satisfy the marster & Mr. Bean we are Content. yet as the Vessell may be weak handed we hope their Servants may lend their assistance. these matters had better be settled while all concerned are on the Spott at Washington

Addressed: John G. Blount, Esqr.

Washington

Favored by Mr. Bain

²⁶Donald Baine was "a young man just entering into business without a shilling of capital . . ." and foolish enough to marry a girl without a fortune, according to Archibald Maclaine. Baine was associated with the Malletts and was sent on several missions by them. *State Records of North Carolina*, XVII, 154.

Lord Charles Montague²⁷ to John Gray Blount

WASHINGTON March 15

1783—

I engage to answer any Draft, drawn on me at New York & to pay it when due, for any sum not exceeding one Hundred Pounds sterling, sign'd by Captain Barratt or Captain Montagu, at Washington

CHARLES MONTAGUE

L^t.C.

[2]

[Postscript]

March 15th.. 1783

Sir

Having waited a considerable time in daily expectation of the Sailing of the Schooner, I have been induced to proceed by Land: my son and Cap^t. Barrett, remain to go by Water, to whom I beg the favour of you to Continue the civilities you have shown to me: for which I return you Many thanks. Whatever expences I have incurr'd at your store, as well as what may appear proper to be given for the use of the house we liv'd in, Captain Barrett will wait upon you to discharge. Shou'd the expences exceed the Cash, that they have with them, I engage to answer any Draft drawn on me, at Newyork, by Captain Barrett or Captain Montagu.

I have also to request the favour of Mr. Thomas, that those Gentlemen may continue in his house, till their departure from hence—

Your Ob^t. H^{bl}.. Serv^t—

CH^s. MONTAGU—

To

Mr. Blount

State of North Carolina S^s.

I William Grover, Notary and Tabellion Public for Port Bath in the State aforesaid by Lawfull authority duly admitted and Sworn, Dwelling in the Town of Washington. Do hereby certify that the above is a true Copy from the Original Letter—

[SEAL]

In Testimony whereof I the said Notary have hereunto set my hand & affixed my Seal of Office at Washington May 15th 1785
WILLIAM GROVER N. Pub.

²⁷See Archibald Maclaine to John Gray Blount [February 23, 1783], above, p. 38.

Daniel Earl²⁸ to John Gray Blount

BANDON 15 March 1783

Sir,

I have taken the Liberty of drawing upon you for £ 14 Specie in favour of Mr. John Barry—This is a Balance due to me for the Board & Schooling of Mr. Augustus Harvey. I applied to Col^o. Tho^s. Harvey for Payment, and he told me that by his Brother's [Miles Harvey's] Books he found the Acct. to be Just, but that you were the Youth's Guardian and therefore application must be Made to you, for that he had no part of his Property in his Hands, I have therefore taken this Opportunity of do[ing] so as at foot, and Make no doubt of your Honouring it. I am with Respect

Sir,

Your Most Obed^t.Serv^t.DAN^l. EARL

Sir,

Please to pay Mr. John Barry the Sum of £ 14 Specie, being a Bal. due to me for the Board & Schooling of your Ward Mr. Augustus Harvey, and his Receipt shall be your Discharge from.
15 March 1783

Sir,

Addressed:

Your Hble Serv^t.

To Mr. John Blount

DAN^l. EARL

Washington—

Favoured by Mr. John Barry

Bingham Ingles & Gilmer to John Gray Blount

[A form letter]

Mr. John G. Blount

Washington

AMSTERDAM March 20, 1783.

Sir

Having formed a Commerceial Establishment in this City, we beg Leave to acquaint, you that we have it in our power to serve our friends on the best and most Advantageous Terms.

²⁸Earl has not been satisfactorily identified.

The Advantages this place has over most of the Commerciaal Citys in Europe, Incline us to Bilieve that it will Command a considerable share of the American Trade, & the States of Holland, willing to give it Every Encouragement, have Lately Enacted some Laws Respecting the Refraction of Tobacco, favourable to the seller, it is the first & most Certain Market in Europe, for Tobaco, Rice & Indigo, & Furnishes upon the best Terms, the Manufactures of Rushia, Germany, Sweden & Flanders; also East India Goods of Every kind, Particularly Teas & Spices.

Should you be Pleased to favor us with your Commands, we shall always attend to them with the firmest assurance of Executing them to your satisfaction, & we desire no longer to be favored with a preferance, but while we merit it, our attention shall be Constantly Employed in promoting the Interests of our friends, which we shall always Consider as Inseparable from our own.

Influenced by these Cansiderations, we hope to be Indulged with your Confidence & freinship, which shall be gratefully Acknowledged.

The Concerned in this Establishment are W^m. Bingham Samuel Ingles & C^o & Robert Gilmor, the two former Reside in Philadelphia, & the Buseness will be Carried on, Under the Sole Direction of the Latter, to whose signature alone you will give faith. We are with regard

Sir

Your most obed. Serv;
BINGHAM INGLES & GILMOR

*John Gray Blount to Lord Charles Montague*²⁹

WASHINGTON March 20th. 1783.

My Lord

Yours of the 15th Inst. was handed me by Capt. Barret who also signified your wish respecting a few Hhd^s. of Tob^o. I could not undertake to ship more than two Hhd^s. without hearing from him (the principal Owner) I much wished to have served your Lordship and would have taken Capt. Barrets Draft for a greater Qty could I with propriety have shipp'd it I have furnished

²⁹This was either an undelivered letter or a draft which was copied. It is one of the few from John Gray Blount himself in the entire collection.

Capt^t. Barret with my Acct. for small Expences at this place and taken a Draft on Mr. Campbell with an expectation it would be most agreeable to you. as you had Property in his Hands. I am happy in your Lordships thanks for the small Services render'd you. And am with Respect your Lordships

Most Obed^t. Humb Serv^t.

J. G. BLOUNT

Addressed: The Right Honble. Lord Charles Montagu
Hon^d. by Capt Barret

Ante. Frans. Salucci and Son to John Gray Blount

M^{rs}. John G. Blount Esq

at North Carolina

LEGHORN³⁰ the 1th April 1783

Gentlemen

The happy conclusion of a general Peace, and the Independency of the 13. America united Provinces offer to Tuscany a fair occasion so long wished for, of entering upon an extended Commerce and forming the most convenient Correspondences between the two Nations.

The favorable situation of our Port, in comparison of any other of The Mediterranean Sea the good and perfect quality of our Products, which heretofore made a very considerable branch of negotiations between Tuscany and England, and the easiness with which the Transactions of what soever Kind are treated in our free Port, are so many reasons which cheer us to the best hopes on the prosperity of this new future Commerce.

In consequence of which, we are earnest not only to offer you Gentlemen, our services in this Place, but also to communicate you the overtures which we rely to see settled the most profitable and lasting intercourses between our Houses, and without diffusing our selves any farther on useless purposes experience will shew you by the effects that we are worthy of your trust.

Although our Settlement of Trade in this Place be of an old date, we have chusen to acquaint you Gentlemen, with it, at the favour of the present Circular in order to begin with the usual formalities for a direct Commerce with North-America, which till now took no room but by intermediation of Great Britain, as also to give you a due Knowledge of our respective signatures.

³⁰A seaport of northern Italy.

We hand you herewith a Note of all the Products of our Country, which we think to be the most sought in yours.

Their respective prices must be certainly very advantageous and so they must encourage you to draw Strong Parcels of them; since all these Articles (excepting manufactures only) were purchased here by Englishmen, and sold in England Markets for North-America Expeditions; and therefore, the sparing of duties paid in England for these Articles must, by course, be a great encouragement to a direct Commerce.

All the Articles of your Products Shall be sold at Leghorn with the best advantage, since for the greatest part, we were obliged heretofore to draw them from England.

The Cod-Fish or Baccalaos, which your Ships may load at Newfoundland Banks will make an essential branch of this new Commerce between your continent and ours. Our consumption in that commodity is very considerable, without being exposed to the unavoidable inconveniences which are met with in many other Countries at the Selling on account of long Respites and bad Debtors after Selling.

Our Customs are very moderate and without entering on a long detail, we dare to assure you, that both for the said Customs and for any other charges in Salling and buying Merchandizes in our Port, you shall find, Gentlemen, a much greater facility than elsewhere, according the experience we have hereabout.

After these notices and hints, if you decide, as we flatter our selves of it to form any speculation directed for our Country, sending your Ships loaded with your Products whatever, we offer to make you their Returns in what you shall think best, by the same Ships; and even we will do it if we should be obliged to put off the Selling of your Cargos for your best advantage but in such a Case we must charge you with the interest at 6. per cent a year for our Disbursements.

We think it superfluous to dwel any longer upon objects whose immediate experience will give you the most convincent proofs of Facts, and invite you to pursue an intercourse grounded on the integrity and good Faith of Commerce.

We stay for your gracious answer and we remain with all Esteem Gentlemen

Your Most Humble, & Ob. Servants

Ant^e. Fran^s. Salucci, et Son

Signature of our Mr. Ant. Franc. Salucci the Father

Ant^e. Fran^s. Salucci, et Son

Signature of our Mr. Vincent Salucci

the Son Ant^y. Fran^s. Salucci & Son

[2] A NOTE OF TUSCAN PRODUCTS

Fine Oil	The Tea, and all The other goods of
Commun ditto	China, and East Indies, are imported
Chosen Wine	here with the Imperial Company Ships,
Commun ditto	and Shall be exposed on The publick
White Moscado	Sale, in The Months of 9ber, and Xber,
Anchoves	of This Year

Capers

Olives

Fine liquors

Syrups

Florence Silk Manufactures and Ribbons

Wool Hats

Straw ditto

Chip ditto

Salt

Allum

Brimstone

Saltpeter

Soap

Dry Fruits

Lemons

Oranges

Aniseeds

Cream Tartar

Cotton and Wool Blankets

All sorts of commun linnen Cloths

Manna

Argol white and red

Essences

Artificial Flowers

Cotton silk and thread stokin

Cantarides

Aldmonts

Iron and steel Instruments of every sort

All sort of Shoes

A Reduction of Tuscan weights, measures, and money

The 112 pounds of London answer to 145,, pounds of Leghorn

A Tun in weight of 2234,, English pounds answer to 2900,,
pounds of Leghorn

A Tun in measure of Wheat answer to 20 Sacks.

100 Bushels of Philadelphia of wheat answer to 48 Sacks of Leghorn

A Dollar of eight reaten is Considered 50,, Sterling pence or farthings about.

Livers 5 3/4 of Leghorn make a Dollar of eight reaten [reales?]

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr.

Mercht

North Carolina

James Dalton to Jacob Blount

ST. PIERRE MARTINICA April 6th 1783

Sir

Inclosed you will please find a bill of lading for one hundred baggs of Salt contg fifty barrels of our Mesur, ship'd on board the sloop ANN—Capt. andrew arthur Master off. which please to receive and sell it for my acc^t. and remit me the neat proceeds in some articles of your produs, that you think The most proper.

I am with Estim

Sir

Your most H^{ble} Servant

JAMES DALTON

Addressed: Mr. Jacob Blount

Merch^t. in Washington

North Carolina

Reading Blount to John Gray Blount

CAMP April 21th. 1783

I recevd yours dated March 30th. in which you mention your surprise on receiving A letter from Mr. Tollow acquainting you that I was indebted to Cap^t. Lytle 8000 weight of Tobacco; let your surprise of been what it might mine was greater if possable when yours came to hand: I hope you are well assur'd that i have seen too much of life to game away acertainty for an uncertainty—A gamester of all things the most detestable [2] in

my opinion as, well, as, in opinion of many others; but whare I set down with four or more jent^lment for an hour or, so, that cant be any disgrace. (in my oppinion) This i have done & plaid for what I never had nor never expected, but since the fate of war has thrown it in my way it shall be paid as far as their right may be good to me—I have sported away the half of the land due me; as for rail [real] property be assurd it never has been plaid [3] by me nor never will, to any amount exceeding twenty dollars which sum any man might risk with out hurting him or his Friend—when you recd Mr. Tollows letter what murst you of thought of me; beyond any doubt you murst of surposd me one of the basest of Brothers to sport away that sum & not five pounds to pay it, but to depend on the best of Brothers to do it for me.—I beg you wont think that I take your letter amiss but be assurd i am much oblige to you for your [4] advice as, well, as, for your information, & [if] Mr. Tollow calls on you again you may inform him that you will pay any such Order should it come from me & that he had better come for it him self as no other person will be able to obtain it—as to owing Cap^t Lytle money or Tobacco I denie it—

I make no doubt but you have heard the great & glorious nus [news]³¹ by this time, if you have not already heard it [5] before it can come from me it [will] make many joyous Hearts & many aiking ones, goods has fallen amaizingly sinc the nuse has been confirmd, it was published in The papers some time before Congress had it confirmd & mesure taken to prevent its being believed, its said and believd that Banks got it from Philadelphia heare in thirteen days: On wednesday [next] there will be on of the finst pardes [finest parades] as will [well as] Entertainments that ever was seen in this country—if there is not the d—l to pay I wonder at it—[6] not that the Soldiers will behave amiss but that every man will get drunk no matter of Rank——

I cant but hartiley condoal with Tom for the loss of so amiable A Woman, as his Wife was, and one I am well assurd he had the greatest Love for.³²—

Its thought our Line will march Shortley to the State, the N Y [sic] Troops will go by Water if Transports can be had to

³¹He is evidently referring to the final peace treaty, but it was not signed until September 3, following this.

³²Thomas Blount's wife, Mary Baker Blount, had died.

carry thim—Make my Compliments to all [7] Inquiring Friends,
my Duty my Fathers Family Love to Brothers & Sisters

I remain

as usual

[The signature has been cut out]

P.S its 12 oClock
or i should [write] much
more

RB

Van Schellebeck & Mailhol³³ to Jacob Blount

NEWBORN 10th May 1783

Dr. Sir

The Schooner St. John of Scotland Goes round to your Place,
and has on board 29 barrels of Sugar, and four barrels of Coffee.
We request the favour of you, to send, them articles up to Tar-
borough as quick as possible. You will oblige verry much

Your most Obed^t

humb. Serv^t

VAN SCHELLEBECK & MAILHOL

Mr. Borniche is at Tarborough he will receive the Sugar and
Coffee. We have told him to Send down a boat to you.

there is a remainder of rum left in a Hogs^d. in your
Cellar, Please to dispose of it.

Addressed:

Mr. Jacob Blount

Mercht

Washington

[Notation on back.] Good News the House Assembly resolved
to make 80 Thousand Pounds paper money Will be obliged to
you to send us back by the first opportunity the 50 muskets left
in your loft [*sic*]

³³Van Schellebeck & Mailhol were merchants and shippers of New Bern. *State Records of North Carolina*, XIX, 224, 360, 647, 879-880.

*Peter Mallett to John Gray Blount*WILMINGTON. May 13th. 1783

Sir

We some time ago, inclosed an order for you under cover to Messrs Ogdens for a quanety Tobacco. from Mr. James Ellis we expect that Tobacco must be in demand with you about this time and we must request of you to get hold of it emediately. we are indebted to Mr. Handley £ 90 some odd pounds which if convenient we should be glad to have paid out of the Tobacco.

We have very lately received advice from Philadelphia and we have strong hopes that those bills will not return. we are uneasy at the long absence of Mr. Bain. whos appearance will be necessary to lend us acct should that bill appear. or that we must send to S^o. Carolina for money. if you have accation [occasion] for further payment for the Schooner will you speak to Mr. Campbell, who is equal with me—

I wrote you to Hillsboro and hourly expect an answar.

I am for M & J & self
your very obedient
humble Servant

MALLETT

Mr. John Blount

Addressed: Mr. John G Blount
Newbern

*William Blount to John Donelson³⁴**Copy*HILLSBOROUGH May 17th 1783

Dear Sir,

The assembly will rise tomorrow. The land Bill is passed much as it was when you left this but the office for Entries is not to open before the 20th October. The Entry Taker is Col. John Armstrong, a man with whose appointment I am well pleased and the Entry office is to be kept at this place. I suppose you

³⁴John Donelson was one of the early settlers of Tennessee. He aided James Robertson in conveying settlers and supplies to the Cumberland area and himself took up land near Nashboro (Nashville). He was a member of William Blount's land company which made the extensive purchase of the "Bent" (bend of the Tennessee at the Muscle Shoals site). His daughter Rachel was the wife of Andrew Jackson. Donelson was killed by Indians. Thomas P. Abernethy, "Andrew Jackson Donelson," *Dictionary of American Biography*, V (1943), 363.

knew before you went away that the price was ten pounds Specie Certificates per hundred and so it yet stands in the Bill.

The Surveyors for that Country I mean to the Westward of the old Indian lines are not nor will not be appointed before the next Assembly when I shall not be unmindful of your Sons Stokely and John. The next Assem—[2] Assembly are to set on the first Monday in October next at this place which will be some time before the land office is to open and I mean to attend very punctually at the day appointed for the meeting and shall be very glad to see or hear very fully from you by the 15th of October and I must beg you to furnish me with as many locations [of land] as you can by that time. and I will enter them all be them ever so many on the account as you and myself were speaking. The Officers and Soldiers are to have their lands within the following limitations, Begining in the Virginia line where the Cumberland River intersects the same thence 55 Geographical miles due South, thence due West to the Tenessee, then down the Tenessee to the Virginia thence with [3] The Virginia line to the Begining, so that such locations as you furnish me with must be without those Bounds I suppose the lands to the Southward of the Officers second line down on the Tenessee must be very good and the lands over the Tenessee between that and the Missesippi must surely be the best in the World. Pray don't fail in making the purchase of the lands for the Company you may depend on receiving the Goods in due time.

[Notation on back:]

Copy of a letter wrote Col Donaldson

Peter Mallett to William and John Gray Blount

WILMINGTON May 26th 1783

Gentlemen

We have attended to your proposal relative to our being concerned with you in a new Brigg and that she is imediately to be imployed between this State and Holland, as well as your wishes for Mr. Vanhassett furnishing you by this Vessell and from time to time such goods from Holland as you may order or as near as possable—

We do agree to be equally concerned in the Brigg & and in case its not convenient to pay for our half here, that you shall

receive the amount in Holland and incase we should not agree as to her Value we will with you appoint three merchants and hold the half at such a price as they shall affix, whatever cargoe you put on board on our account our P. Mallett is to pay for here—

And that our W. H. Vanhasset, will furnish you [2] with goods at Six & Nine months Credit any sum between fifteen and twenty five hundred pounds Sterling. or more when upon tryal and you find^s. the trade to answar even our expectation the Consignments from your House to be adressed to Mr. Vanhasset or his Assign in Holland he or they to charge not more than five Pr Ct. Commission as Costing in England, and in case of accident by dangers of the Sea—or otherways,, so that you fail in your remittance, you may expect to pay five Pr. Ct. Pr. annum Interest on all and every balance after the time limited for payment being expired—

We flatter ourselves of an advantageous connection, and it is our wish that it shall be lasting.

We are Gentlemen very
Much your Obedient Servants

P MALLETT

W. H. VANHASSETT

Messrs. William & John Blount

Donald Baine³⁵ to John Gray Blount

WILMINGTON May 26th 1783

Dr Sir.

I delivered your letter to your Brother yesterday, and shewed him the proceedings of the Court of Admiralty respecting the Schooner, he is of opinion that there is not the least doubt but that the Court of Appeals will give her up to the Owners, Mr. Mallett is of the same opinion & is determined to prosecute the Appeal.—

I shall embark from hence in six days for Rhode Island, and from thence to Philadelphia to Attend the Court of Appeals, & shall acquaint you as early as possible [2] the Result,—Your

³⁵See above, p. 47, n. 26. Baine was in New York in the business of the *Speedwell*, a vessel in which the Blounts were interested and which had been seized on the ground of running contrary to the grain embargo. *State Records of North Carolina*, XVIII, 566. See also Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, Princeton, August 8, 1783, below, p. 81.

Brother cannot take your saddle & Bridle, but I shall take particular Care of it & forward it to you by first Conveyance— Please present my Respectfull Compl^{ts}. to M^{rs}. Blount and family, and am

Dr Sir, in haste
with great. Respect
Your Much—
Obliged Serv^t

DONALD BAINE

J. G. Blount Esqr.

Addressed: John Gray Blount

Washington

Favored by W^m. Blount Esqr

Miles Harvey³⁶ to John Gray Blount

PERQUIMONS May 27th 1783

Sir

I have Troubled you with the Inclos'd for Doct^r. Ramke at Newbern, whos sister Nancey Informed me She had made him Acquainted with my Disorder of puking of Blood, & he thinks he Can be of Service to me, I was in hops Tho^s. Harvey would have gone to Washington & would have Seen the Doct^r., but his Being Prevented by Sickness in his Famaly I must Request the favour of you to Send the Letter to the Doct^r. by Some Person that you Can confide in, and Shu'd the Doct^r. Rite or Send any medicines to your Care for me you will Send them to me by the first Safe Opp^y., I Refer you to Cousin Augustus for the News Polly Joins in Compliments to Cousin Polly & the Girls & Except the Same yourself &

Am your Most Ob^t.

Humb^l. Serv^t.

MILES HARVEY

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq.

in Washington

³⁶This Miles Harvey was a relative, but not the father of John Gray Blount's wife. The latter died in 1776.

Hugh Williamson³⁷ to John Gray Blount

PHILAD^a. 7th June 1783

Dear Sir

In a short Time our Treaties with most foreign Courts will be finished and we shall proceed to appoint Consuls in the most considerable Sea Ports in Europe or Africa. A Consulate will be honourable & somewhat profitable to any Gentleman who is settled or may settle as a Merch^t in the Place where he is appointed Consul. I do not wish that any Merch^t of character and Abilities who is a native of our State should leave the Country to settle abroad, because I think he may serve himself and his Country better by staying at Home where I hope that Trade will flourish and be conducted by the Sons of America. However if you know of any N Carolinian who is settled or about to settle in any foreign Port I shall be much obliged to you for the Information that when Places are disposed of we may consider how far our Claims to any of them may extend. There is no Place, in Congress nor out of it, in which I shall willingly neglect the Interest of our State. On the above Subject you will be so good as [to] consult your Acquaintance[s] and let me hear from you. I have the Honor to be with the utmost Consideration

Your most Obed^t hble Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

Mr Jn^o Grey Blount

Addressed: Mr. John G. Blount

Mercht

Washington

Free. Hu Williamson

³⁷Hugh Williamson (1735-1819) was a native of Pennsylvania, where he was educated at the Philadelphia College. He first studied theology and then turned to medicine, going abroad to study at Edinburgh, London, and Utrecht. His physical frailty interfered with his work as a physician and caused him to turn from medicine to the mercantile business. He went first to Charleston, where his brother remained, and then to Edenton, where, with the exception of his stay and final residence in New York, he made his home.

He married Maria Apthorp, daughter of Charles W. Apthorp, a wealthy merchant of New York. By her he had two sons. He died in New York, May 27, 1819. He is remembered for his work as surgeon general during the Revolution; delegate from North Carolina to the Constitutional Convention of 1787; and particularly for his writings, including numerous scholarly scientific articles, and a two-volume history of North Carolina. He was one of the closest friends of the Blounts in the earlier years after the Revolution. *The State Gazette of North Carolina* (Edenton), January 22, 1789; *Raleigh Register*, June 4, 1819; Alex[ander] Martin's Letter Book, 1782-1785 (North Carolina Department of Archives and History), July 5, 1784; Legislative Papers, December 1-10, 1792; Hampton H. Carson, *History of the Celebration of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Framing of the Constitution of the United States of America* (2 vols. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1879) I, 195 ff.

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

[TARBOROUGH, June 11, 1783]

Dear Sir,

In order to relieve Mr. Hills' very great want of Sugar I was yesterday obliged to buy of Mr. Borniche a Barrel W^t. 240^wt. at 70/ for which gave him an order on you supposing there to be yet a balance due you from his employers—If this is a way of paying yourself & you are pleased with it I can in like manner get a Barrel [of] Coffee at 2/ Pr.W^t.—some of which Mr. Hill & Myself want & the residue will perhaps command Cash or Tobacco—Mailhol offer'd me £ 120 in the new paper money with Depreciation if any, for my Horses—Doubting the Credit of the Money, not the man (for the money was to be paid on delivery of the Horses) I refused it—Now I request you to judge & act for me in this case for my Situation is better known to you than myself. all are well & send love to be distributed in your family I am busy in posting my Books & wish to hear from you—

As usual

Yours

THO. BLOUNT

Tarb^o. June 11th. 1783

Addressed: John G. Blount

Mercht.

Washington

By Riddick Tucker

*Isaac Ogden to John Gray Blount*NEWBERN 18th. June 1783

Dear Sir.—

The Note you forwarded me sometime ago by Mr. [Richard] Blackledge has not as yet been delivered—In consequence of which I am still detain'd out of the Money—the last time that Gentleman was here. I mention'd to him the Obligation I was under to demand prompt payment, In the Hurry & confusion he sometimes is in (or seemingly so.) he answered the note was lost and he could not help it.—

As that amount may appear Trivial in the Eyes of a Person of his Extrems—I request you will assure him, it is not so in mine

& at the same time demand either the note or the Money immediately. It stands to Reason I ought not to suffer by his dillatory minuvers,

My motive for troubling you once more in the Business is that as you at my desire presented the note to him you are the fittest person to require his attention to it—

Shoud any of your Bussiness that you may now have or hereafter want negociating in this place you may allways command your hbble Serv^t.

ISAAC OGDEN

Addressed: Mr. John Gray Blount
Merchant
Washington
Hon^d by Mr Cabarrus

William Blount to John Gray Blount

June 20th 83

Sir,

The incased is a Memorandum given me by Col. Jos. Martin³⁸ of Things to be purchased for the Indians to pay them for the Bent of Tenessee³⁹ which are to be delivered in November—Upon looking over the Warrants in my Possession as Sheppard I find that I have one for 600 Dollars in favour of [Hugh] Williamson and another in favour of [Benjamin] Hawkins for the same sum—I thought they had both been in favour of Williamson and that the one in favour of Hawkins had been sent to Edenton by Charles Johnston instead of that one was sent to Edenton in favour of Williamson and must be the one Payne alludes to. I am &c

W^m. BLOUNT

Addressed: J. G. Blount
Washington

³⁸General Joseph Martin, a Virginian, was appointed to make an Indian treaty and became greatly interested in lands in the western area. He was a member of William Blount's Muscle Shoals Company and with John Donelson made the purchase from the Indians of the great extent of lands on the "Bent." He was a member of the North Carolina assembly and after leaving North Carolina to return to Virginia became a much more important man there than he had been in North Carolina. Thomas Perkins Abernethy, *Frontier to Plantation in Tennessee* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1932), 64, 65.

³⁹He has reference to goods which were to be furnished by John Gray & Thomas Blount, Merchants to pay the Indians for the Muscle Shoals lands which Donelson and Joseph Martin had bought. See above, p. 57, n. 34.

*Jacob Bount [Jr.] to John Gray Blount*S^oD^e.⁴⁰ Creek June 23^d. 1783

Sir,

We at length are nearly load'd & I hope shall Sail the first fair wind after to day, I have rec^d. Staves of the following Persons Viz. Cap^t. Henry Tripp 16250 Staves and 4,000 Heading of J^{no}. Hill 2560 Staves & 100 Heading, of William Tripp for Blackledge 4400 Staves & 2600 heading total 23300 Staves and 6600 heading⁴¹, there cant be a load of Staves procur for the flat without a deal of trouble I have in consequence sent her up to Broad Creek to load, I amagine you Expected we was at sea before this but you may depind there has been no time lost in loading I have gave William Pringle an Order on you for three Bus^{el}. Salt which please pay—

I am with Compliments to Polly Tom & the
Girls Yours &c.

JACOB BLOUNT

Mr. J. G. Blount

Addressed: Mr. John Gray Blount
Washington
Pr Capt. Brown

*Peter Mallett to John Gray Blount*WILMINGTON 23^d. June 1783

Sir

I expect that your brother William informed of the Contract between us respecting your new Brigg.⁴² which I am in hopes is on a good way by this time. what ever you fall short in Tobacco we think Terpentine aught to be put in its place. we have received letters of the 18th. March from Amsterdam giving us good in Curragement for these two articles. Will you let me hear from you. by the first convene [conveyance]. and tell me when its necessary that Mr. Vanhassett or myself should be with you—

⁴⁰South Divide or South Dividing Creek was in Beaufort County. It flowed northward into Pamlico River. See H. S. Tanner, "Map of North & South Carolina," p. 64.

⁴¹Jacob was loading a vessel for the West Indies, where lumber products were in great demand. The fact that the island did not produce lumber, together with the great amount used in making containers for their products for export, gave great impetus to the trade.

⁴²Henry Tuley was building a new vessel for the Blounts. See Henry Tuley to John Gray Blount, July 4, 1783, below, p. 67.



*Jacob Bount [Jr.] to John Gray Blount*S^oD^e.⁴⁰ Creek June 23^d. 1783

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We at length are nearly load'd & I hope shall Sail the first fair wind after to day, I have rec^d. Staves of the following Persons Viz. Cap^t. Henry Tripp 16250 Staves and 4,000 Heading of J^{no}. Hill 2560 Staves & 100 Heading, of William Tripp for Blackledge 4400 Staves & 2600 heading total 23300 Staves and 6600 heading⁴¹, there cant be a load of Staves procur for the flat with out a deal of trouble I have in consequence sent her up to Broad Creek to load, I amagine you Expected we was at sea before this but you may depind there has been no time lost in loading I have gave William Pringle an Order on you for three Bus^{el}. Salt which please pay—

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JACOB BLOUNT

Mr. J. G. Blount

Addressed: Mr. John Gray Blount

Washington

Pr Capt. Brown

*Peter Mallett to John Gray Blount*WILMINGTON 23^d. June 1783

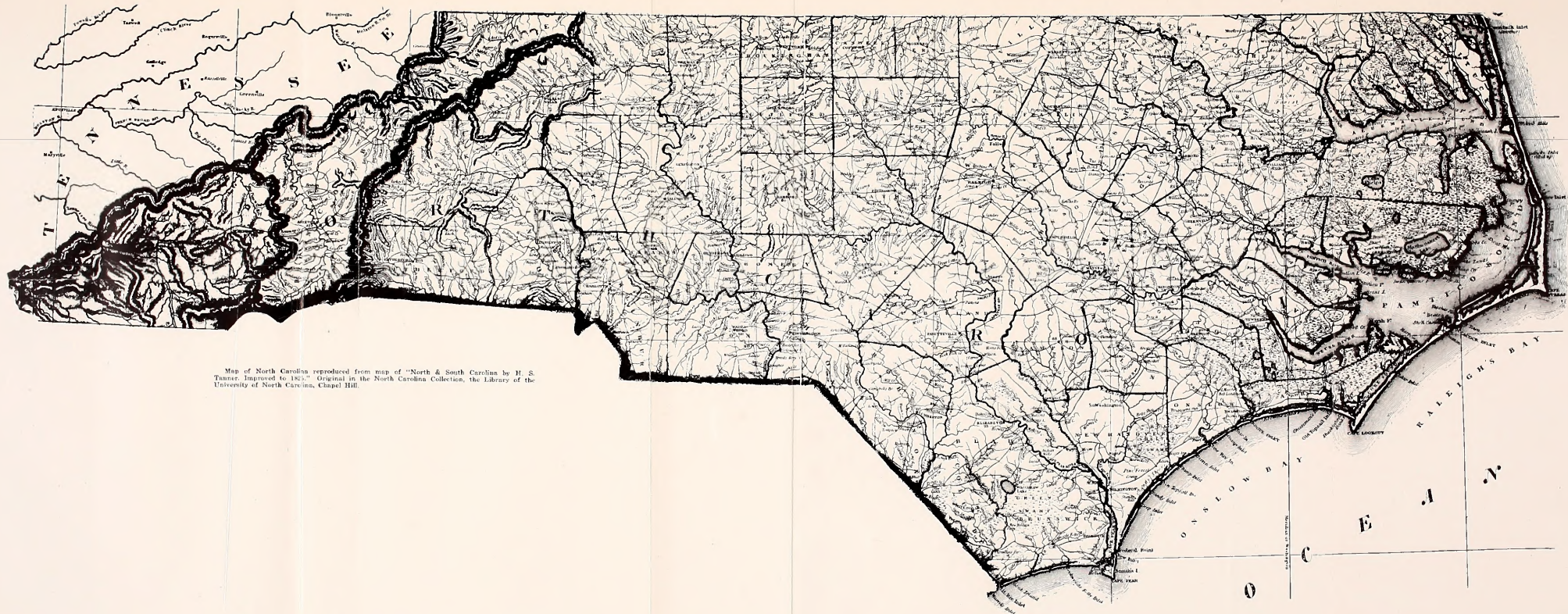
Sir

I expect that your brother William informed of the Contract between us respecting your new Brigg.⁴² which I am in hopes is on a good way by this time. what ever you fall short in Tobacco we think Terpentine aught to be put in its place. we have received letters of the 18th. March from Amsterdam giving us good in Curragement for these two articles. Will you let me hear from you. by the first convene [conveyance]. and tell me when its necessary that Mr. Vanhasset or myself should be with you—

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⁴²Henry Tuley was building a new vessel for the Blounts. See Henry Tuley to John Gray Blount, July 4, 1783, below, p. 67.



Map of North Carolina, reproduced from map of "North & South Carolina by H. S. Tanner, Improved to 1823." Original in the North Carolina Collection, the Library of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

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and what prospect you have of getting the Tobacco from. Ellis—

I have recommended to Mr. Mumford that he send out in this Brigg a Young brother of his who has a turn for the Sea. should he be sent. will you [2] desire the Capt. to give him no further Indulgence than he doth others. he has been several Voyages and will be found able to do his duty. but it is the Intention that he become a Seaman by way of the hearth holes.

I am your most obedient

humble Servant

P MALLET

Addressed: Mr. John G. Blount
Washington

George Ogg⁴³ to John Gray Blount

HALIFAX 28th. June 17⁸³—

Dear Sir

We Have got into the Spirit of Racing & if your [horse] Bite that we have been talking of is fat & that you Can with Convenience Spair him & Send him by the Return of Mr. Tulloch it will be dowing me an esential Service. I have a tittle Race on hand to be Run in Aug^t. & have no kind of a trial nagg—if you should find it Convenient to Spair him you must send him as so far on his way to Some of your friends at S^o. Quay by way of de-ceiving Tulloch, as he is Concern'd with my adversaries.—I am

Dear Sir Yours Respectfully

GEO. OGG

Addressed: Mr. John Blount
Merchant
Washington

⁴³No clear identification of George Ogg has been found. He wrote a number of letters to the Blounts postmarked from widely separated areas. Horse racing was one of the favorite amusements in eastern North Carolina at this time.

*Peter Mallett to John Gray Blount*WILMINGTON June 30th. 1783

Sir

I dropped you line by the last post. but as I am exceedingly anxious for the Briggs dispatch, Mr. Vanhasset now being ready to depart and determined to go in that Vessel and only with your information when he will come forward we are in hopes every day to hear from you—

I shall wait on Mr. Vanhasset. as fair [far] as your place, in order that our account may be fully clear and in order to fix with you the mode of payment of the last balance as well as what may be due for our share of the Briggs Cargo. Will you please to be speake lodgens for Mr. Vanhasset dureing his short stay—over [2]—We shall send from hence a waggon load [of] Indigo &c. to go in the Brigg—will you inform Mr. W. Blount that the bill he had of M. & J. [Mallett & Jewkes] for Mr. Toomer was 117 1/2 dollars.---

I am your most Obedient
humble Servant

MALLETT

Mr. John G. Blount.

Their is no sale here for rum or anything else—we want very much to get a Vessel on frieght to Europe of 120 to 150 tons. which can be loaded at a short notice—pray let us hear from you by the first post

Sence the above I have received yours of the 17th. Instant and am very much disappointed. that the Brigg should be so long in the Country. we hope every means will be made [3] use of, that she may be dispatched [.] as to the accounts of the Speedwell. the balance due is mostly from Mr. Campbells share—a direct answar shall be given by the next post. and hope it will be Satisfactory—as your Vessel will be too late for Mr. Vanhasset, Mr. Tho^s. Blount had better come forward in order to go with him by way Chastown [Charlestown, South Carolina] next week or by the 12th.

Addressed: Mr. John G. Blount
Washington



The Tuley

One of the Blount's brigantines. From a pitcher now on display in the Hall of History, North Carolina Department of Archives and History.

*Henry Tuley⁴⁴ to John Gray Blount*July the 4^d 1783

Sir

I am sorey to inform you that the Vessel is not Cumplet but will Carey on as fast as posebel when soplid with Oachum & Iron whitch we air at present with out both & hope youl Send it as quick as posebel. I Ecspect to cum up to Washington a fue days befor I lanch and Aquant [launch and acquaint] you [with the time of launching] as you purpose Cuming to the lanch and Shall be glad to git Sum good Rum if Its to be had I am Sir your hum Sr^t

HENRY TULEY

Addressed: John Grey Blount
Washington

*Thomas Polk⁴⁵ to William Blount*CHARLOTTE July 5th. 1783

Dr. Sir

I have been attentive to our Land business since my return from the Assembly tho' find that Indents cannot be had under 1 for 5—However I am going on at that & shall untill such time as I shall hear from you or some of the Company & know if a

⁴⁴Henry Tuley built several vessels for the Blounts. Some were built at Pungo Sound, but not all. He seems to have been a successful shipbuilder, although his letters indicate a marked lack of formal education. He built the brig *Tuley*, which was named for him, in 1797. The *Tuley* was built at Slades Creek (see Henry Tuley to John Gray Blount, Slades Creek, May 17, November 22, 1797, John Gray Blount Papers). The Blounts owned in entirety or in part a number of vessels at this time, although the high peak of their shipping business was to come later. References to the brig *Young*, which they bought in 1782 (see Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, April 21, 1782, above, p. 24), the brig *John*, and the brig *Richard*, all seagoing vessels, indicate big investments in shipping at this time. These were by no means all in which they had an interest, even this early. Unfortunately, the official registrations of vessels for these years are not extant.

There were different types of vessels used in the Ocracoke section at this time. The largest vessels, ships and scows, did not frequent this area because of the difficulty of navigation. Brigs or brigantines were the largest commonly used. They varied in size, seldom reaching over two hundred tons; the *Young* was a seventy-ton vessel [Port Beaufort Customs Report for December 4, 1787, North Carolina Department of Archives and History]. Brigs or brigantines were used for the European and West Indies trade. The schooner was next in size and considered "a fast sailer," while the sloop, sometimes as small as six or eight tons, was the Ford truck of the eastern waters. For a more detailed description of the vessels, see Crittenden, *The Commerce of North Carolina*, 10-13.

⁴⁵Thomas Polk, uncle of James K. Polk, President of the United States (1844-1848), was a surveyor of the southwestern territory of North Carolina. He was frequently a member of the assembly, a colonel of the militia of Mecklenburg County, Commander of the Fourth Regiment of North Carolina in the Continental Line, commissioner of the town, and a trustee of Queens College in Charlotte. He owned extensive lands and mills and ran a store near Charlotte. *Colonial Records of North Carolina*, VIII, 487; *State Records of North Carolina*, XV, 178, 179; XX, 772-773.

sufficient quantity can be had below on better terms—I have been induced to give £2250 for the Locations of 60,000 Acres Land in that Country said to be of the very best quality—it is high but no certain entrys can be made otherwise to advantage—if such bargains as this will do let me know—

Money is so hard to be got that my [2] bussiness is greatly curtailed on that acct. Myself & Son have sent our Claims down for our services, & should we be disappointed it will retard our bussiness much—

If you cannot purchase Indents at 5 for 1 in the lower County sufficient to do it would be best for some of you to come up with the new or other money for which enough may be had—Please write me fully on this head as soon as possible

I am with great esteem

Your friend & Hb^l.

Ser^t.

THO^s. POLK

W^m. Blount Esq^r.

Notation on back: W^m Blount paid our Half in Certificates say 1125 Certificates

Peter Mallett to John Gray Blount

WILMINGTON. 7th. July 1783

Sir

I did not answer your letter by the last post respecting the payment for the Speedwell. because I wanted to see Mr. Campbell from whom the money is presumibel due

this Gentleman has made a Journey to S^o. Carolina and has Just returned on purpose to Collect the money—and I am exceedingly sorry that between us both we cannot Command the sum you want unless we sell property at less than half its Value—

Mr. Bain will soon return from the N^o. Ward and then Mr. Campbell says it shall be settled some way. the remainder for my share shall be paid in a bill on Philad^a. or New York. when I come on about the Brigg. and I rather think we can manage the whole that way. [2]

Mr. Campbell. has and can Command any reasonable Value in Westindies or this Country produce, or he will sell negros.—I am in hopes soon to hear from you repecting the Brigg

I am your most
Obedient Servant

MALLETT

Mr. Blount

Addressed: John G. Blount
Washington

Peter Mallett to John or Thomas Blount

WILMINGTON 18th. July 1783

Sir

I have your favor of the 10th. before me. and from its tenor you could not have received two of mine since your last. which surely must have reached you before now—since the Dam^d. price [of the] Shipp [was so high] we are distressed for Cash. having then advanced to the utmost farther [farthing] for shares; and on the approach of peace neither Mr. Campbell or myself have sold two punchins rum neither is the money here. or Georgetown. so that it is absolutely impossable to send it by the bearer. Mr. James Cruden is here from New York. and in the course of a few days it will be determined whether he will give bills on New York or England either is equal to money in Philadelphia. Mr. Campbell is now very sick but promisses me to do everything he can. and see you within a month. when I expect that Voyage to be closed [2] as we also expect Mr. Bain from the N^o.ward in the mean time—I have my reasons for wishing Col^o. Tho^s. Blount⁴⁶ to remain and go in the New Brigg. she has most certain lost this Season as in the month of November is a very uncertain month. should she fail in her desired Port she then must put in to England. so that you may see how necessary it is even in this case for Mr. Blount to be on board. in order to dispatch her with an assortment from the latter Kingdom. Mr. Vanhasset depart this day, and will acttwellly sail from Charlestoun the 24th. as Gillin writes us the Vessell will certainly

⁴⁶Thomas Blount was going to northern ports to try to establish commercial connections for John Gray & Thomas Blount, Merchants (see Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount, August 30, September 2, 1783, below, pp. 94, 99). The Malletts wanted Thomas to go with Van Hasset to Europe.

Sail the moment he arrives—I am loading a Shipp here for London. Mr. Cruden returns here from Charlestoun and to go in her. now suppose Tom Blount goes in her. and to give orders at Falmouth. Bristol. & Liverpoole for the New Brigg should she be under the necessity of touching their. this Shipp is one of the best in the wourld. on board is good Company. I can furnish [3] him with Credit sufficient for expenses &c.—the Vessell sails in 40 days—I had forgot to tell you again in case you fail in Tobaco. Turpintine appears the next article or nearly as good—in your account you omitted Crediting me the Value of £80 in Cash of Tobaco at Tarrborough I think Mr. T. Blount told me at 2/ of Virginia money. and your Credited £50St^{rs}. by Banks. to Major Blount which was not paid by that puppy.

I have never received a Shilling from Patrick Martin. if any oppertunity do desire him to pay it to you or send it on. as he wrote me he was in readiness to pay. excuse this Scrawl

I am your most Obed^t.

humble Servant

P MALLETT

Mr. Blount

I shall write you by the Post. the Shipp' name that [is] going to Londen is the Henry

Addressed: Messrs. John or Thos. Blount

Favored by Mr. T. Blount

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

[BLOUNT HALL, July 18, 1783]

Sir

I find by Malletts Letter that Vanhassault is gone to Charlestown & will Sail from thence on the 24th. Inst. the only question now is what Vessel I am to go in from Washington & when unless you think it more expedient that I should go with Mr. Cruden in the Ship from Wilmington which Mr. Mallett is loading—I expect you will be able to determine on the matter as soon as you read the Letters Tom brings you & I wish to know your determination as quick as possible—if you can't conveniently spare a horse to send up to me take Yorrick for the purpose As the Lotts in Tarborough on which I have lived will not

be necessary in carrying on Trade there I have to request that you will be so obliging to fix a price on them & let me keep them & pay all Charges of repairing the house I am the more solicitous that you should accede to this proposition, as with an intention & wish to keep them I put more repairs on the house than I otherwise should have done [2] I have not a doubt but the same generous motive that actuated you to put & Support me in business will incline you to deny my request, but I cannot by any means think of abusing your generosity so much as to let you pay so dearly for my Caprice—a Sense of your generosity & partiality to me & a Consciousness of being unworthy of such Services as you have already done me, affects me with such Sensations of Gratitude as totally deprived me of the power of utterance when I would have made this proposition verbally—The greatest favour you can now do me is to grant this request without speaking to me on the Subject, which if you do, let me know by your Express to me that I may be able to arrange my affairs to guard against such accidents as may happen on the Voyage intended—My father has made me a Deed for Trotters land.—before I leave this I shall make my Will & take the Liberty of named [naming] you as one of my Executors. With Love to all your family, I am as usual yours

THO. BLOUNT

[3]

Nancy Harvey⁴⁷ has had three violent fits of the ague & fever—all the rest of family are well—

Tho. Blount

Blount Hall Saturday

Evening 18th July 1783

Addressed: Mr. John Gray Blount

Mercht.

Washington

favour'd by Tho [H.] Blount

⁴⁷Nancy Harvey Blount, the daughter of William Blount, who made her home with Thomas Blount at Tarboro much of the time prior to her marriage.

*John Cooper to Messrs. Blount & Blackledge*SUFFOLK July 24th 1783

Mess^{rs}. Blount & Blackledge,
Gentlemen—

Mr. Bignall inform'd me a few days past that you had a Vessel about to sail for Holland, you will Much Oblige me in forwarding the Inclosed letter—If you have not formed a Connection already in Amsterdam, I beg leave to Recommend to you the House of Mess^{rs}. Nicholas & Jacob Van Stafhorst. as Gentlⁿ. of the first Abilitys. in the Mercantile line, and of great Punctuality,, and What I am sure will Still more recommend them to you, there Steady and Close Attachment to the Interests of the United States during our late Contest. Those Gentlemen were agents for Congress in Negotiateing alone [a loan] in Holland. They are desirous of forming Commercial Connections Throughout The [2] States and I make no doubt would be happy in forming a Connection with your State and with your House.

If a letter of Introduction will be of any Service to you, & you will Please write me what the firm is Or Who goes out to transact your business I shall be very happy in being instrumental to the Introduction, hoping it may turn to Mutual Advantage of my friends—I am with respect

Gentlemen

Your most

Ob^t. & humble Ser^t

JOHN COOPER

Addressed: Blount & Blackledge
Merchts.
Washington

*Peter Mallett to John Gray Blount*WILMINGTON. July 28th. 1783

Sir

Your most esteemed favored of the 23^d. reached me this moment. I am exceedingly sorry to embariss my friends in money matters when I know the money should be punctually paid, but such is the Credit of this part of the Country. that there is no kind of dependence—Mr. Cruden is gone to Charlestoun & Georgia;

otherways the bills could have been sent. he will return in a bout four weeks, as he and Mr. Campbell will then be together. I expect and am sure their matters will be closed to your wish. the one half which I myself am to make up which their remains due £200 & 40 or £50. you may depend on bills on [2] London for at the filling up of either the Henry or Polly. both of which we are loading for London and am sure to compleat them in five weeks—these bill are equal to Cash at the No. ward at New York 2 1/2 Pr. Ct. better—I recommend most earnestly to Tom Blount to go with Mr. Cruden; yet I am sorry to inform you that Mr. Cruden Mr. Vanhassett &c. chain of connection is not quite to the formers mind. as the latter has entered into a concern in South Carolina with Comadore Gillon which doth not meet with our aprobation. this however will not effect your plan because I am sure Mr. Vanhassett will be punctual. this Gentleman has wrote you and I suppose has told you that neither Mr. Cruden or myself are to be concerned in his exports to this Country you therefore will have the choice of a Credit in Britain or Holland which may if you incline be left at [3] your Brothers choice even at his arriveal [arrival] in England and the Briggs calling at Falmouth for orders can determin it. the Season will I am afraid be fair spent before she is ready. and Mr. Cruden doth not incline to hold any part of her. as they have so many Vessels, this however can be no disappointment when your Credit can be extended to your wish—

Mr. Ogden aught to Determine by then whether he means to hold the Tobacco & bills too

Mr. Campbell tells me he will see you and I bilive intends to try some discount with you through Mr. Cooper—pray send all our agreements and papers if your brother comes. so that we can settle our accounts—

I am your most
Obed^t. humble Serv^t.

P MALLET

Mr. Blount

Addressed: Mr John Gray Blount

Washington

James Barr⁴⁸ to John Gray & Thomas Blount & Co.

PHILADELPHIA 4th August 1783

Dear Sir

I have duely Received your esteemed Fav^r of the 16th July, and have not time to write you fulley as the Post goes this morning, (you Should have heard from me a Long time ago only I am just Returned from the Havanna to which place I have been Since the peace[.] during my stay there I was very Sick & came home in that condition, But I am now fulley Recovered, With Regard to trade we have too much of it, as oure harbur [Philadelphia] is Filled with vessells all most from every part of the Globe, & Prodigious Quantities of Goods have arrived here from Europe & the West Indies, but at the Sam[e] time you Could Scarcely Purchase a proper assortment of Goods, as a great number of the adventures were intire Strangers Both to the trade, of this Country & the Customs, many of them will make Bad Voyges & I am very much afraide the[y] will Carry of [off] a great Quantity of our Cash, as all kinds of our produce is very high and exchange has Rose to 170 Pr. for a 100 £ Sterling the most Currant price of Dry Goods is from 95 to 100 Pr^{Ct} on the Sterling Cost, Just as the Goods [2] as the [goods] are in Demand or Sootes the Season Linens & Ozinbigs⁴⁹ Can now be purchased at the first mentioned price & Course Clothes Such as would soot your your Country, but as there [is] Such a number of Straingers in amongst us that there is no such thing as any Credit to be obtained, & Scarce any of our former merchants have got into Business yet, as to the Best Markets in Europe to Ship Tobacco to, I believe London & Glassgow to be the Best Both for Price & to purchase Goods to Ship to America, in either of these Places I have no Particular friend, should you Send Your Vessell to Glassgow, I would advise you to give the Commissions to Mess^{rs} John & Humphrey Barbur who I am Confident will do you all the Justice that any Person Can or will, & the [they] Live but aboute 20 Miles Distance from the port, & I Belive the [they] would accept of, her, Holland I have no oppenion of withoute you wanted Tea Cherry & Gin which does

⁴⁸James Barr was a merchant and shipper of Philadelphia. He was a close friend of the Blounts and when he formed a partnership (Stuart & Barr) with James Stuart of Philadelphia, his firm became the most important single house in the Blounts' trade. Much of the Blounts' correspondence consists of business letters from Stuart & Barr.

⁴⁹Osnaburgs, a coarse cloth made in Osnabruck, or Osnaburg, Germany, and imported for use in making clothing for the slaves. The United States was not then producing enough cheap cotton cloth for this purpose.

not Soote your Country & Dry Goods must be Laide in from 10 to 15 PrCt. higher than in London & Glassgow & then your Tob^o must be Sold on Credit, & the Voyge is Rather Longer & more Daingoreous, Insurance from this to the West Indies on a vessell & Cap^t that is known is about 4 PrCt Round or 2½ oute, aboute 3 PrCt o [of that of] Europe [3] With Regard to the Best articles to Ship to Europe I know of Nothing Better than Tob^a that can be got in your place in any Quantity so as to be worth notice, If you could Precure a Loade of Barrell Staves for a Vessel, & acquainte me of the time the [they] couldd be Readey the [they] would would answar a Good purpose to be Shiped for Cork—I am fully of the Opineon, that your house would have made more money by the following Methood, (Ship wheate Tar Turpentine Pitch—Tob^a and purchase your Goods here, Being in Haste I am Gentⁿ. your Hubl Srv^t.

JAMES BARR

Messrs J. G. Blount & C^o

Tar—20 Pr B

Turp^t.—

Pitch—

Wheate—7/9 BB

Ja^sRiver Tob^a 55 to 47 PrCt

P.S. You may Depend upon any Services I can Render to you & Shall be glad to have any Consignments you Send JB

You may expect a further answer by next post & you will please to give my Compts to all friends & yr. Brother W^m in particular, as I suppose he will not be at your place

Addressed: To Messrs John & Thos Blount & Co

Merchts

Washington

North Carolina

Hugh Williamson to William Blount

PRINCETON 4th Aug^t 1783

Dear Sir

Mr Payne informs me that he has paid you at diff^t Times £ 147:14: 8 & £ 50 the Amo^t. 619 1/3 Dls. Beside your Draught in fav^r of Crockets & Harris for 130 Dls I have taken up your Note in Mr Hawkins Hand for 507 2/3 Dls The Amo^t 1357 Dls

Whence I suppose the Balance is in my favour near 147 Dls. To say nothing of some hard Cash that I hope you have rec^d from the Commissioner nor of soft Cash to be hardened which I presume you may have rec^d. from the Gov^r. As you will not have occasion for more cash from Mr Payne I shall direct him to keep what he may receive, if any should be paid him, ready for a subsequent Draught. The Boys here,⁵⁰ your Brother & Blackledge, seem to be going on very well. There are I observe 3 other boys from near Newbern. Whither is congress to adjourn from this Place? I wish I could answer that Question. But I suspect New York will fetch us up if the British Troops have that Place During the Autumn. What would you think of such a Change? I am with the utmost Consideration

Your most obed^t Hble Serv^t

HUWILLIAMSON

W^m Blount Esq^r.

Addressed: William Blount

Near Washington N C.

Free Hu Williamson

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

PRINCETON 4th Aug^t 1783

Dr^rSr

Near two months ago I had the Honor to write you that I had rec^d an Appeal from the Court of Admiralty in Rhode Island which was forwarded by a Gentⁿ: who signs Sam^l: Johnson. I lodged the Appeal in the Registers Office about the 12th of June The Court of Appeals is to sit again in Philad^a in Oct^r. I think, probably for the last time. I expected to have rec^d from you full Instructions on this Subject, but none are come to Hand. From the Papers which I have seen I should presume that you have only been an Agent in the fitting out of the Schooner Industry⁵¹ no[t] the owner; However be this as it may, there appear to have been at least pretty strong Suspicians against her and if you meant to prosecute the Appeal those Suspicians must be combated. As you may not have seen a copy of the Proceedings

⁵⁰Willie Blount and William Blackledge were in school at Princeton (College of New Jersey).

⁵¹The *Industry* was seized for sailing contrary to the grain embargo. See above, p. 59, n. 35, and p. 81, n. 55.

of the Court inclosed is the Copy of some Letters which seem to have been produced in Evidence, whole lines or parts of lines just as they are recorded. I suppose the Letters have been torn and Parts of them lost.

Whatever Instructions you are pleased to give on this Subject shall be punctually regarded.

I have the Honor to be Dr^rS^r

with just Regard

Your hble Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON[2]

MrJn^o Gray Blount.

Addressed: Mr. John G. Blount

Merchant

Washington N;C;

Aug^t 5th

Dr^rS^r After I had written as on the other Side, waiting for the Arrival of Major Long, whom I early expect on his Return from N.York. Mr^r; Bain arrived here. The Extract I had inclosed are not forwarded because I understand you have seen all the Proceedings. I have advised Mr^r Bain if he employs a Lawyer to employ Mr^r. Willson⁵² because your Brother formerly employ'd him in an Appeal but, I should otherwise have preferred Mr^r Suris who is less distracted by other Business & seems to labour his Causes with great attention & much Success. However I believe had best defer that matter to the determination of his Owners for certainly it will keep.

I am Y^r obed^t Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

James Iredell⁵³ to Thomas Blount

EDENTON August 5th. 1783

Sir,

You perhaps heard that Mr^r. Hale and myself obtained with great difficulty at the last Halifax court a compromise of your

⁵²Judge James Wilson of Philadelphia.

⁵³James Iredell (October 5, 1751-October 20, 1799), was English born, but came to be closely identified with North Carolina from his youth on. He was a brother-in-law of Samuel Johnston, with whom he studied law. Iredell is best known for his work in law. He took an active part in the securing of the ratification of the Constitution of the United States, revised the statutes of North Carolina, and was an associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. His legal opinions were notable and his influence in North Carolina extensive. See sketch of Iredell by J. G. deR. Hamilton in the *Dictionary of American Biography*, IX, 492, 493.

suit with Parker which was ungenerously urged to be brought on notwithstanding the recent and most melancholy Misfortune you had Sustained,⁵⁴ and in which I do assure you—Sir; I sympathised with you with the greatest concern. You will be pleased to be very attentive to the procuring and Serving of Subpaenas for Witnesses to attend at the next Court, and do not depend on Sheriffs, but get some Persen to deliver the Subpaenas to the Witnesses in person—and who can be ready at the Court if necessary to Swear to it, for you may judge from what happened at the last Court that it will be not safe to risque a single omission.

I am,
with sincere respect,
Sir;

Addressed: Thomas Blount	Your very obedient Servant
Merchant	JAS IREDELL
Tarborough	
To the care of	
John Blount, Esq.	
Washington	

James Barr to John Gray Blount & Company

PHILADELPHIA 7th Agst 1783

Gentlemen

I have duly Recived Mr W^m Blounts of 16th of July and am happy to hear that you are all well, & Congratulate you on the happy Returns of peace, he writes me to know the State of trade, in this place, I have only to inform you that there I believe never were more goods in this City at any one time than there is at present, at Same time you would Scarce purchase a Good Assortment of goods as the[y] have, been imported Chiefley By foreigners & Straingers to the Cuntry & the trade of it, the Currant price of Goods are from 95 to 100 PrC^t on the Sterling & the[y] are Chiefley Sold for Cash. Mr W^m. B. informs me that your House are sending a Vessell to Holland, from whence you intend im-

⁵⁴The death of Thomas Blount's wife.

porting Goods, I am of opinion London or Glassgow would answer Better, for Sundry Reasons, as the Goods you wou'd Get in either of them places would Come Cheaper & Better Suted to your place than from Amsterdam, without you wanted tea or Cherry or Gin, Varry Great Quantity I am certain would not soote your place, from the present price of Tob^a. I am of the oppinion you would nearley get as much for your Tob^a here & Could purchase as many Goods for your Cargo as you could in amsterdam & then you would have your Goods Immediately, to Begin with, & I am further of oppinion that more money Could be made immediately in this manner, as Tob^a. Staves Tare [tar] Turpentine Pitch Rice flower, &^c must Continue high in this place, untill the Ferrieghners Get tired of our trade, Saile Cloth & Riging you can Purchase Currancey for Sterling at this place which is a principal article in Holland, & unless your Vessell Carreys a Great Burden, you Could Imploiy her Better by Sending her to the west Indies, & ordering her in Here with her Homeward Cargo which will at all times Command the money or Goods at the Lowest price that would Soote yours[.] he [William Blount] Requests to how [know how] 100 heads of Chattle [cattle] would answer this fall, I have had no oppertunity [2] of Enquireing of the Graizers, but from the Goodness of our Crops & the fine Season we have had Pasture & hay we have in greate abundance, I am therefore of opinion the[y] would answer as well this Season as ever the[y] did provided you Could purchase them near theire former vallew [value] With Regard to any acquaintance I have in Brittain in a Comerical Line, I am onley Lately Introduced to them myself, so that I could not presume to Introduce any others untill I have established my Credit with them which can onley be done by time & Being Punctual in my payments, I am Sorry that I have it not in my power to Serve you equal to my Wishes, but you may be ashured I will not decive you in case you should Send your Vessel to Glassgow, I would think I could be Some Service to you as I mentioned in my former to you, if you change her voyge you will please to write me, & I will write to my friend & Send you a Copey of it by Post or otherwise as oppertunity offers, I have been very unfortunate since Mr W^m. Blount Left this place, in the Loss of two Vessells, allmost withoute any Inshurance, one I owned half of & the Other one Eighth of.

I am of opinion a Vessell of 3 or 400 Hundred Barrells kept Continually Running Between this place & Yours would answer

a very Great end, & if you should incline to place Confidence in me, I am at Your Service, I am Certain I have it in my Power to Serve you to as much advantage as if either of you were on the Spot Both in the Sale of your Good & the Purchase of any thing you may want from this place, as I think I am more acquainted with what will Soote your place, but if you place Confidence in me your Orders Shall be Strickeley Complied with —& I will Keep you well informed of the Current prices of this place, if a Quantity of Wheate Could be Purchased in Pasque-tank or Perquimmons so as to Cleare a Good Profit, you may Interest me in the Purchase. [3] Corn from your River or from the former would pay a Good freight. Barrels, & Hd & pipe, Staves & Heading will allways do it 3 foot Shingles will at all times Command a Good price, and I am fully Convinced more money Can be Cleared from oute your Cuntry by Vessells that Can go over the Swash withoute Litering than any other that you can imploy & them you know will not answer these times for Europe as She will nor Carry Burthen enough, if you Should accept anything of the within mentioned plan, I could allways dispatch your Vessell if Small in a few days time, & Could if Necessary Give a Small Credit on the Goods She Brings here which is a very Great advantage to the Sale—

This plan of foreigners into this port in all Likelihood will Continue for one or two years, untill This State & the Northern ones Gets Vessells Suficient to Carry of [off] the produce of the defrent States, At the present time no person can Cary freight in any of our Vessells [at] so Low [cost] as a Sweeda, Deanes [Danes,] or Dutchman, Can as their Vessells are of more Burthen,, & their Hands Sailes for Less wages, & the Living of the men [is] much worse, therefore, the[y] can & will for some time Give nearly as Great a price for Goods to fill their Vesseles as the Goods will Bring in Europe, by Shiping Cash or Bills from this place appears to be the method that most of our Merchants adopt in this City, I shall be allways happy to heare from you at all times & to Render you any Services that is in my power, & you will much oblige me by Presenting my Compliments to your father & all his Family, I am Gentlemen with Great Esteem

Your Most Humble Sert.

JAS. BARR

c/o John Gray Blount & Co.

P. S. Should you interest me in the Purchase of a Cargo of Wheate you will Please to acquainte me in time by what Vessell you Ship it & the time she will Saile— That I may make inshurance should I think it necessary. J. B

Price Currant

Tob^a. of the first Quality 60/

2^d. D^o. 50/

3^d. D^o 45/

Tare [Tar[. 30 P B^x

Turpentine none at market & may fetch 40/

Addressed: Messrs. John & Thomas Blount

Merchants, Washington

North Carolina

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

PRINCETON 8th Aug^t 1783

Dear Sir

A few days ago Mr. Bain called on me in his way from Rh. Island. His Business In Philad^a it seems is attend the Tryal of an Admiralty appeal from the condimnation of the Schooner Speedwell.⁵⁵ Some Days before Mr Baines arrival I had written a Letter which I delivered him for you. I cannot think that Mr Beans [Bains] continuig at Philad^a could be necessary till the Tryal which may not come on for weeks after the Beginning of the Session. I could not even advise what Lawyer he should retain. Your Brother last Year retain'd Mr Willson in an appeal from Newbern; was the Case one of my own I would full as soon employ Mr Lewis, who I think studies his Causes more diligently & sticks to them very successfully. In a dangerous and valuable Case I should employ one of those Gentlemen and some Auxiliary. I confess that from the Papers I have seen (and I understand that you have seen a Copy of the same Papers) I augur ill of the Cause. The Proofs on Record that have been in the Court are very suspicious if not direct to the Point. Wherefore if you

⁵⁵The courts decided that the *Speedwell* and also the *Industry* were improperly seized because they were loaded within the days of grace allowed before the embargo went into effect. *State Records of North Carolina*, XVIII, 566.

mean to prosecute this appeal with Effect I think it will be incumbent on you to shew.

How did it happen that a Letter was on board the Schooner signed by Campbell representing that she was bound for New York on a Trade with the Enemy.—Perhaps the Letter gives the Schooner another Name than that in the Register but it describes her otherwise and Your Acc^tC^t. if I remember well mentions her as the Property of Mr Cambel. How did the other Letter signed by Touton come on board which also describes the Schooner and declares her Destination for N York. How did those letters come to be torn? The British Officers might have had Letters and have torn them, [2] but they had no business for your Acc^t of the Outfit & Cargo on the a/c nor should they have torn it. Why was a Vessel of such value man'd by two Officers & two private Seamen only for so I think it appears. Why was she so near the Land! Tho I think this the weakest objection against her. For that may have been the safest Rout to shun Cruizers.

It does not seem to me that Mr Bain is a correct and clear Hand at telling a Story. If the Story is really a sound one and has a good Bottom it will bear a much clearer Explanation than any that I have yet heard. I wish yourself or your Brother William would undertake to give me the History of this Adventure including such Circumstances as will explain all the difficulties I have proposed. I have mentioned them because I think the Court seems to have leant on them in the Condemnation. If you should be coming to the Northward yourself before the Tryal the Trouble of such a long Letter will be saved because you will be able in person to explain the Cause to the Lawyer. I have to repeat, if by chance I mentioned it before, that this cause will require being well nursed and that some new Evidence be produced or new Light cast on the Subject if you would set aside the Verdict of the Court below. I have stated candidly where I [think] the Case labours, in order that you, if possible, may relieve it. I have the Honor to be

Dr Sir

Your obed^t Hble Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

Mr Jn^o G. Blount

William Blount to John Gray Blount

PINEY GROVE August 14 1783

Sir,

Herewith you will receive a letter from Jennings and another for Hawkins. Jennings's Name I believe is John & there are several of Name of Jennings but the Jennings' Tulloch's Partner married the Widow Colston and I believe lives just below the Mouth of Rokey River. You will observe I have wrote the letter on such a manner as if you did not entertain a Doubt but that Jennings was bound to pay Tulloch's Debt it may be that he may not be of that Opinion and perhaps will not answer it and if he does perhaps may not answer it as you wish He should. I think you had best make Kelly acquainted with the Contents of it and perhaps he may draw him into such a Conversation as may amount to an Assumst & Kelly could be an Evidence against him. particularly instruct Kelly not to mention the Matter at first before his Wife for in order to keep fair with her it may be that he will deny the Debt when otherwise he might assume it. You may observe that I desire Hawkins to deliver Kelly my Bond but in Case he will not I would notwithstanding think it best that the Deed Should be delivered to him & if he will not receive it [2] I think Kelly had best take Notice at what time he tenders it and you had best have an exact Copy of it made and attested by one or more Evideneers if possible the same that Saw you sign the Deed before you deliver it to Kelly which Copy have good Care taken of. If this is not done and Kelly by any means should loose the Deed I should be liable to the Penalty of my Bond which is great. I have received a letter today from the Governor in which he again Mentions the Warrents in favour of Williamson & Hawkins and I find He has only issued Warrents in their favour for 1200 Dollars instead of 2400 as I requested. and as I understood his letter to mean as I informed you when I was at Washington and a letter from Mr Montfort also says that he has received Warrents from the Governor for 1200 Dollars only in favour of those Gentlemen so that in your Engagements for Paper Money you must not count on a larger sum than the 1200 Dollars from that fund. A letter from Read of the 12 Inst. says that on that day Mr Culworth [3] began to sign the new Money that an officer was gone after Mr Hunt⁵⁶ who was expected hourly and Motfort [Montfort] says as soon

as He can get the Mony He will send it by Express to me. Read wuld not tell what had been the fate of the Ship but I have heard that his Party still hold on. I shall set out immediately for Kingston & return on Sunday

I am &c
W^m. BLOUNT

August 15th 83

Addressed: Mr. John Gray Blount
Washington

John Nelson⁵⁷ to John Gray Blount

HALIFAX 17th. August 1783

Dear Sir.

By Colonel Armstrong you will receive One Hundred & Eighty five Pounds Seven Shillings & Eight Pence, which appears to be the Balance due agreeable to the Acc^o. which I have enclosed you I also send you Eleven Pounds Interest on the Bal^a. The whole Amounts to £190.7.8. which is something less than the Acc^o. you sent by the Colo. the reason which you will perceive in the inclosed Accot^t.

I assure you Sir, nothing gives me more pleasure than, paying Money to a friend from whom I have had an Experience of the Greatest indulgence I blush when I reflect on the promise made you last Summer, which has been out of my power to Comply with, Owing to several Causes. [2] However, I need not name them, as I believe you are tolerable well Acquainted with the circumstances of the Army—I hope the Money sent you will Answer every purpose as Specea, [specie] what-ever the circulating reports may be thro, the Country respecting its depreciation, I declare them to be groundless—I hope to be at Next Assembly where its probable I shall see you

Please Offer my Compliments to M^{rs}. Blount
and believe me that I am
with every sentiment of
regard & esteem

Your M^o. Ob^t. Servant

JOHN NELSON

⁵⁷John Nelson was appointed a captain by the Congress at Halifax in 1776. Wheeler, *Historical Sketches*, I, 79.

P. S. have inclosed you an Order drawn by your Bro. William in favour of me on David Allison for Sixty Six dollars. he refuses to settle it—

J. N.

3 I intended to have been at Washington before my return home, but the tedious time I have been here with my accot^{ts}. wasting for Cash, points to the propriety of returning Home as soon as possable. Today I set off—wou'd write to William but cannot procure a Sheet of paper for the purpose in all Halifax—present him as well as Reading & Tom, my most full Complements.

J. N.

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

PORTSMOUTH Aug^t. 17th. 1783

Sir

I arrived here last night—there is no immediate Passage to Phil^a. Baltimore or Head of Elk but there is a Sloop that will sail on Monday or Tuesday for New York in which I have determined to take Passage merely to avoid the fatigue of returning to Washington—Mr. Samuel Davis of this Town has shewn me the Prices Current of New York & Philadelphia six days ago which are nearly the same & say that Tobacco is worth 6½ our Currency Pr^wt with this difference, it will be rec^d at New York Pr Invoice without being Inspected & at Philadelphia they have adopted the West India Custom & regulate the price by the quality—Goods may be bought at either place at from 7½ to 12½ PC^t Sterling on Sterling—this Authority is undoubted, therefore regulate your matters accordingly & write me by the Brig—My stay at New York will be short perhaps not more than one day I am obliged to send Jake back because it is not practicable by any other means to get my horses back—⁵⁸

I am yours

THO^s. BLOUNT

Addressed: Mr. John Gray Blount

Mercht.

Washington

By Boy Jack

⁵⁸Thomas Blount had probably ridden horseback all, or at least a large part, of the way to Portsmouth. He often went as far as South Quay (see above, p. 12, n. 19, in letters for 1777-1782) and usually had a servant to accompany him.

*Thomas Blount to John Gray & Thomas Blount*PORTSMOUTH Aug^t. 20th. 1783

Sir

I shall sail Tomorrow morning for New York there being no probability of a passage from this place to Phil^a. Baltimore or Head of Elk in less than a week or ten days—Mr. Blow this moment arrived from Phil^a. which place he left on Saturday last, says Tobacco is there worth from 50/ to 65/ Pr^{Ct}. Tar & Pitch each, three Dollars & Turpentine four Dollars Pr^r Barrel—The latter articles in demand, but he supposes Tobacco will soon fall owing to the very great quantity there & going & the expected accounts from Europe this, if the Brig has not already Sailed will I expect induce you to hurry her off—I shall not stay a single day at New York being convinced that [2] Philadelphia is the best market but haste immediately to Phil^a. & dispose of the Cargo you told me you intended to put on board—Mr. Blow says that Philadelphia is very full of Goods & gives me reason to believe that I may purchase on much better terms for ready payment than you have ever supposed for fear of my failing to obtain a Credit suppose you prepare another load of Naval Stores to be ready to send immediately on in case you like the price of which I will write you as soon as I arrive there—The definite Treaty is not yet signed—Tobacco at Petersburg has fallen from 38/ to 28/ Pr^r100 last week.—I am

Yours

THO^s. BLOUNT

Addressed: Messrs. John G. & Thos Blount

Merchts.

Washington

To be put into the Post Office at Suffolk

*William Blount to John Gray Blount*PINEY GROVE August 21st. 1783

Dear Sir,

The inclosed letter came to my Hands today from Mr. Johnston's Open. Mr. Barr speaks but little Hopes of Credit without which Tom will be able to do Nothing but Titus Ogden was here on Monday last and told me there was no doubt but He would be

able to obtain what Credit he pleased for He said the [that] Mr. Duncans had wrote him repeatedly asked him why he did not send Orders for Goods for they could send him any quantity He pleased & Titus added that He was sure they would do as much for Tho^s. Blount as they would for him. As yet I can get no Mony from Halifax. Charles Roach is making Tar for the Purpose of raising Mony to pay you for the Negroes I believe I would engage it at 10/ to be delivered at Nwbirn [New Bern]. He will have 100 Barrells I suppose. let me Know whether I shall engage it or not. I think I had best. Gen. Caswell has received a letter from Col. Donaldson in which He says the Purchase of the Bent of Tenessee of the Indians is made for £ 1000 Specie to be paid in Goods on the last day of December.⁵⁹ By the Articles We are to furnish the Goods at the common Price at the time of delivery. You must be sure to instruct Tom to bring a sufficient quantity of the proper kind of Goods to make the Payment. Col Donoldson recommends and requests that Gen. Caswell or Myself would attend the Assembly of Georgia at their next Seting to obtain a Title from that State as well as the Indian Title & Gen. Caswell thinks it will be best & I at present have thought of going to Georgia if [2] On that Errand if I can find when there Assembly is to set for this purpose I wish you to have two of my Horses put in Order for traveling I believe the Gray & Barron will be best. I shall be very sorry if the seting of the Georgia Assembly should interfere with the seting of our Assembly but if that should be the Case and you should attend ours I believe it will be best for me to go to Georgia. Sometime past you informed me that Tho^s. Blount would wish to sell his Trotter land for Six hundred pounds Specie, I was mentioning this to Capt. Coliness [Collins] and He says he will give that price for it and pay for it in Cash (not paper) or Produce by the last day of February next. I promised him to write you and inform you of his offer and to make him acquainted with your answer so that you will please answer this Passage of my letter in a letter by itself that I may send it to him if you answer that he may have it He will come immediately down and confirm the Bargain. When I was at Kingston Mr. Coart desired me ask you if you or Tom or both would take his Son Cox an Apprentice to Merchan-

⁵⁹See sketch of John Donelson, p. 57, n. 34.

dize and my father I believe will want you to take Sharpe also.⁶⁰ You some time past talked of getting Cooper to make New Wheelers for my old Carriage I shall be glad to know if He is about to make them and if He is when they will probably be done. Tell Mr. Blackledge when He sends for my Mother that my Carriage is at his Service and I believe there is less Probability of its breaking than there is of her Chair. I will in the Course of the ensuing Week endeavor to draw up [3] Some Articles of Copartnership.⁶¹ You had best make out an Inventory of Shipping Debts &c of which our Capital is to be composed You had best send me the Mill Carpenter you talked of for Mr. Allen is sick and unable to work & Summers has not come near me yet. Reading was speaking to me about Jaerotts keeping the Mills⁶² I wish you not to engage him yet and I had rather he should not expect it not that I have any Objections to him for I think highly of him. You need not have any more Spikes made for the Mill Titus Ogden will let me have all I want

Tangoe is very anxious to carry his boys with him & has been to Mrs. Seller and obtained her Consent that he may keep them. She says her only Objection before was to Adam's having them in his Care—

I spoke to Sheppard about deeds for Mr. Palmer and he promised that if he could get any Body to draw them that he would have them executed this Week before he set out for Hillsboro^h. Court where the Govr. has cited him to appear about the Mary Carrolls House sold for [taxes?] and He returns through Franklin to get down the Tobacco for Jones to Tarborough—Tom talked of coming home in Mr. Bakers Carriage by which he will be detained for 10 or 12 days after the Vessel may have reached Washington & as soon as [4] She reaches Washington I should suppose his Assistance would be absolutely necessary especially if I should go to Georgia in which Case it would be indispensably necessary for you to attend our Assembly. I think you had best write him on the Head. When I was in Philadelphia Barr was telling me that Weeding Hoes which are a very good Article in

⁶⁰Cox Coart did become an apprentice and seemed to have been highly favored by the Blounts. He is mentioned many times in these letters. The Blounts had a great number of apprentices and wards. The apprentices, of course, were with them to learn navigation and the shipping business, while the wards were often sons of well-to-do men who wanted the Blounts to manage the property bequeathed to their sons. In the latter group were Abner Nash, Lewis Irwin (Tarboro), Augustus Harvey, and others.

⁶¹They were preparing to form a mercantile organization, which they did. This was the John Gray & Thomas Blount, Merchants, concern. William probably refrained from having his name included for fear of injury to his political career.

⁶²They were building a grain mill. Thomas Blount bought the millstones in Philadelphia (Thomas Blount to [John Gray Blount] Philadelphia, September 23, 1783). There are many references to the mills at Piney Grove where William Blount was living at this time. They also had sawmills there.

this Country could be made much cheaper than they could be imported from Europe out of plated Iron which is to be had at several Iron Works near Phila^a. the Reason of this is Same told there is no such thing as a plating Mill in England.⁶³ Suppose you instruct Tom to bring in some Plates of a proper Width & thickness for the purpose of having some Hoes made by way of Experiment. Had you not best instruct Tom to bring in a few Barrells of Good flour for our own Use I should be glad of two Barrells

I am &^c

W^m. BLOUNT

J. G. Blount

Hartwell Cocke to John Gray Blount

COBHAM August 27th. 1783.

Sir,

I wrote you some time ago by Mr. Barry to inform you that Mr. Van Hassetts Tob^o. would be ready in two or three months since which I have applied myself closely to the collection of such Bonds & accounts as people had contracted for those goods; and after every effort possible I can only obtain twelve or fifteen Thousand till the next crop comes in it is utterly impossible to make collections at this time & I am sorry to disappoint you or Mr. Van Hasset but I do declare I have done every thing to obtain the Tob^o. and can only get the quantity above mentioned which I will hold ready at your order & so soon as I make another collection I will let you Know⁶⁴

I am With esteem

Your most Ob^d.

Mr. John Blount

HARTWELL COCKE

Addressed: Mr. John Blount

Merch^t.

Washington

⁶³There is no doubt that the English feared the rise of American manufacturers, even this early, and iron was one of the things which gave them concern. See Lord John Sheffield, *Observations on the American States* (Dublin: P. Byrne, 1784), 70-74.

⁶⁴This was intended for shipment to Holland. The Blounts were working with the Mallets and William Van Hasset of Amsterdam to export goods to Holland. Peter Mallet to William and John Gray Blount, May 26, 1783, above, p. 58.

*Reading Blount to John Gray Blount**Aug^t. 28th. 1783

Sir)

Genr^l. Green [Nathanael Greene] is this far on his way home & as little as I can do is to wait on his honour to Halifax, and pay him every respect in my power, in honour to the State; (Coalman Bascott & Dr. Blyth goes up with us) as its likely it will be last honours we may have in our power to pay him, if you can send my Certificates I shall be glad to have them—The matter is all off between the W^e. [wife] & my self; she would not give me any reason why it should be so⁶⁵; let the matter rest till I see you my Love To Sister

I am

Yours

RBLOUNT

Addressed: Mr. John G Blount
Washington

James Green Jun. to Commissioners of Port Bath

NEWBERN 28th August 1783

Gent

I am requested by the other Commissioners⁶⁶ of this port to inform you Mr. Brag & Mr. Wade has made application and offers to keep the Stakes up at Bacon Island & the Swatch for Forty five pounds a year. And as this is a joint Matter the Commissioners of Port Beaufort are desirous of receiving your Approbation on the Subject, by return of the Next Post.—

I am

Yr. Obedt Serv^t.JA^s. GREEN JUN

Addressed: Commissioners of Port Bath
at Washington

*Rodman Manuscripts.

⁶⁵His meaning is not clear. He might have referred to some domestic difficulty or it might have been some financial question. His wife inherited property from her father and was displeased with the management of her legacy by John Gray Blount, her guardian, before she married Reading Blount.

⁶⁶John Gray Blount was one of the commissioners of Port Bath.

William Blount to Richard Dobbs Spaight
[Copy]*

[PINEY GROVE, August 29, 1783]

Dear Sir,

Since writing you from this Place immediately after my Return from Halifax on the 10th or 11th of July I have not had the Pleasure to hear from you Mr. Sitgreaves informed me that the above mentioned letter was delivered you just as you were about set out for Cape Fear to which Circumstances I attribute your Silence. The Contents of that letter I presume have not let slip your Memory—Inclosed are Extracts of two letters from Mr. Montford which you will please read before you proceed further. I am much surprised to find a Passage in that of the 24th Inst. which says “Six hundred and forty pounds of which I let Captain Read have is some part of the Purchase Mony of the Ship.” When I had expressly desired him Virtually before I left Halifax to send the Mony by Express immediately after he recev’d it if no good opportunity offered and after I returned here I wrote him to the same Purport as I knew you [2] were very desirous to have the Mony in Hand that you might be preparing to get to Congress. In his letter of the 12th Inst. you will observe He says “if I get the Mony you may depend on its being sent you by Express.” I have sent you these Extracts and made these Observations to prove to you that I had not given my Orders for the Application of your’s and Mr. Nash’s Mony. But as he has applied it to my Use I must account to you for it which I will do by paying you the Mony at Craven Court on which you may rely for I shall send an Express for Halifax on Monday morning to draw a much larger Sum from the Treasury which I shall expect back in four or five days, but at all Events by Court The Story of the Ship is long but I must tell it to you in Order the better to Shew you how Montfort came to apply your Mony to the Payments of her—for my Use.

Before Read came to NewBern She had been sold. The purchase Mony to be paid in 20 days agreeable to law Reads Party had purchased her as much [3] in Opposition to what they called the Tory Party as for any other Reasons and the Dependence of the whole Party to raise the Mony to pay for her then was on Read on which Errand he immediately set out for Halifax

*This seems to be an unfinished draft which Blount copied and sent to Spaight. See William Blount to John Gray Blount, Piney Grove, August 31, 1783, below, p. 97.

and as he passed through Newbern he communicated the whole of the Circumstances respecting the Sale & Purchase of her to me and proposed to me to take a Part observing that He thought that He could get hold of the New Mony so early as to pay for her by the time the twenty days Credit would expire in which I agreed with him in Opinion. This Offer of leting me have a Part of this Ship & the Opinion that the Mony would be had within the twenty days gave rise to the Proposal I made you and Mr. Nash to take your Mony and gave you hard Mony in leiu at a future day⁶⁷—On my receiving an answer that I might have the Mony if I chose on the Terms I had supposed I set out for Halifax and there found that this Mony could not possibly be had to pay for her [4] before the time of Credit would be expired nor in a long time after and it being uncertain whether Reads Party would be able to keep the other Party from again selling the Ship untill the Mony would be made I was induced to inform you as I did in the letter before mentioned that the Opportunity which had presented itself of paying out mony to advantage had ceased & that I could not take your Mony upon the Terms I proposed. Besides Mr. Montfort to whom Read had also mentioned the State of the Ship & who had become determined to become an Owner in her in Case Reads Party were Strong enough to hold her untill the New Mony could be made was Agent for M. Simmons of C. Town [Charleston?] & he expected to receive about 17 or 1800 £ of the Officers [money] on his Acc^t. which Mr. Montford was to have 12 Mo. Use putting himself liable to pay Simon [Simmons?] hard Mony at the Expiration of that time. This Mony Mr. Montford supposed as I also did that [5] the Officers would very gladly pay and of that Mony he assured me He would pay Read as much it as would pay for a part of the Ship for me in Case Reads Party should keep her untill the Mony could be had. And whether I own any Part of the Ship I as not yet know as I have not [been] able to hear from Read since his arrival at Wilmington. In the Extract of Montforts letter of the 24th is the following Passage—"I would not collect enough of Simmons Debts to pay your Part and my own too" which proves that both himself & I was mistaken in our Opinion that those debts would be so easily collected and that disappointment induced him to Use your Mony

⁶⁷Nash, Spaight, and William Blount were delegates to the Congress of the Confederation of the United States. The Blounts usually served as bankers for the delegates by transforming their North Carolina paper into hard money which would not be discounted in the northern cities. The Blounts did this through the shipment and sale of goods to the places where the Congress met.

and tho it was expressly contrary to my Directions to him I am sure it was done with a View to Serve me that I beg you will not censure him but me & hope I shall be so soon able to pay you that it will be attended with no Inconveniency to you. I have trusted M^{rs}. Grainger to whom Davis [6] has paid the £ 640 that he brought down to pay it to M^r. Nash who I have no doubt will be both able & willing to spare you or loan a Part of it untill I can pay you which you may rely will be at Court. I hope you will excuse this paying M^r. Nash the £ 640 which Montford did send when I assure you that my Reasons for so doing are not that I would give him a preference but that I assure myself you will the more readily pardon the application of the other Six Hundred & forty pounds—The Contents of this letter therefore I would wish you not to mention—for should Mary⁶⁸ know it it will be subject to misrepresentation & misconstruction.

[7] I observe you and M^r. Nash have each drawn 8 M^o. Pay. I [will] take of you half the Sum you have drawn viz 800 Dollars & pay you your Salary in Philadelphia in hard money monthly for the four last Months. I would make you an offer to take more but I cannot make Payments in Philadelphia sooner than the first above mentioned will become due.

I will take of M^r. Nash 600 Dollars & Pay him in like Maner for the three last Months—This will be handed you by W^c Grainger I send this Express to Billy Grainger to whom I shall be glad you would give your answer who will have the person to deliver it

Speyers Singleton to John Gray Blount

August 29th 1783

Sir

I rec^d. a line a few days ago requesting me to sell or lend you some Canvass—in answer thereto I. have not more then will be sufficient for the Brigs Sails, that I am Building at Pungo—or should a've been happy to a've served you in the Sale of it. I am

with Complements to M^r Blount

Your H Serv^t.

Aug^t. 29th. 1783

S. SINGLETON

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr.

Washington

Fvrd by Mr. Sandy [*sic*]

⁶⁸William's wife, Mary Grainger Blount. William usually referred to her as "Molsey." The Blount men's wives, with the exception of Reading Blount's, had pet names.

William Blount to John Gray Blount

PINEY GROVE August 29th 1783

Sir

Charles Roach says he expects to have 150 Barrells of Tar ready at New Bern by the last of September or very early in October which he engages to let you have at 10/ per Barrell. I have agreed with him to burn my old kiln & carry the Tar to New Bern & shall probably have about 50 Barrells which will be there at the same time, so that I believe you may certainly depend on having 200 Barrells of Tar at New Bern by the first Week in October. I have the more particularly mentioned this that you may make Provision for shiping it if you please. Roach also says that he purposes to make [2] 100 Barrells more of Tar to be delivered at farthest by the last day February for which I have also engaged him 10/, but he says he expects and will endeavour to deliver it early in January. He would not make the first Contract unless I would make the last and it is my Opinion that this new Emission will be so easily obtained that Tar will in February be more than 10/. People that carried Tar to New Bern last Week some got 12/ all Mony, some 12/ half & half & from that to 10/ all Mony. I let Tom Blount have 16 Dollars as I thought the Sum he had with him was not enough for him. I shall be glad of a like Sum by the next Post. When I send for the Pork I wish you would send me a Bushel Salt.—I expected to have been able to have to send you some new Mony but am disappointed Montford has behaved so ill that I must immediately send to Halifax for Mony. The post is in much haste or I would say more—

I am

Yours

W^m. BLOUNT

Addressed: J. G. Blount

*Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount*PHILADELPHIA Aug^t. 30th. 1783

Sir,

I arrived here on the 28th Inst. The Brig not yet arrived—Mess^{rs}. Barr & Stewart have no Goods except a few to Sell on

Commission which they cannot dispose of but for ready Cash—nor does it appear that they or Mr. Hillborn (who has not yet begun to do business) have power to procure a Credit for us—the reason is that the Goods holders are chiefly foreigners. none of the former Merchants of this place have yet got a supply except such as purchased in this Country & consequently cannot sell on terms suitable to us—Mr. Stanly offers me every Service in his power & tells Me He thinks I may obtain a Credit for three or four Months to the amount we wish but not longer—the Goods he sent to Carolina were bought on the same terms—the price of Tobacco is at a stand no person seems desirous of purchasing perhaps I may be able (if it proves to be of the first quality in their [2] estimation) to obtain 60/ but scarcely hope to get more than 50/ or 55/ Pr. 100 by the inclosed prices Current you will find that Naval Stores will answer very well at this Market which circumstance together with the improbability of obtaining such a Credit as we wish will induce me to wait at this place after dispatching the Brig until you inform me whether you will send me another Vessel load of them—Mr Barr gave me the prices Current & thinks there's not a doubt but the market will keep up some months—I landed at New York & stayed there one day—Tobacco is there worth 7^d. & perhaps 8^d. pr w^t might be obtained in Cash for which, some Goods, tho' not well assorted may be bought at the Cost including insurance Commission &c. I also inclose you the prices Current at that place given me by a Mr. Cary Vendue Master who appears to be a very clever man & well acquainted with business [3] I have it in contemplation to sell my Naval Stores here for Cash & send the Brig round there with the Tobacco unless I can get a Credit here—but cannot fully determine on the matter before I make a more accurate calculation of the expences which must necessarily be incurred—I am now in haste the Brig I write by is this moment ready to sail. I will write the day after tomorrow by post—Let me hear from you soon—write Me [how] my Son is⁶⁹—& believe me
as heretofore

THO^s. BLOUNT

P. S.

A Tolerable assortment of such Goods as will suit us cannot be got of any one man in this place or at New York—The common wholesale Cash price is £190 Currency for £100 Sterling & for

⁶⁹He probably refers to one of his wards. He did have one child, who died at birth or soon afterward.

the most saleable articles as high as two for one—at Vendue many articles may be daily bought for less than Cost—of this method I shall take all possible advantage. let me hear from you as quick as possible.

THO^s. BLOUNT

Addressed: Mr. Jno. G. Blount

Washington

Favd by Mr. Armstrong

Jacob Blount [Sr.] to William Blount⁷⁰

BLOUNT HALL Aug^t 30th 1783

Dear Will,

Your letter to Reading Came Two late he Set Out On friday After Diner with Gen^l. Green, Maj^{rs} Edwards, Hern and Cap^{ts} Becoate and Colmon for Halifax at the Request of Gen^l. Green, thay all Came her[e] On Tuesday last from Charlston Brings Nothing New[.] Reading wass Very Desiorus of seing You Before he Went But Could not for want of Time Maj^r Edwards Desiard me to make his Most Respectful Compliments to You and famaly and wass Very Desiorus of Going Down to See You But I informed him it wass Grately Out of his way—I Obsarve that part of Mr Hawkins Letter Respecting Governer Mortain [Martin] to him and find You are Likely to be pade off in New Money Agreeable to my Expectation after hering Your Account of the Matter—have Sent Your letter with three more Reading Brought from Wilmington and One from him to John Which You will Send by the first Conveyance, the family are well all But Salla—

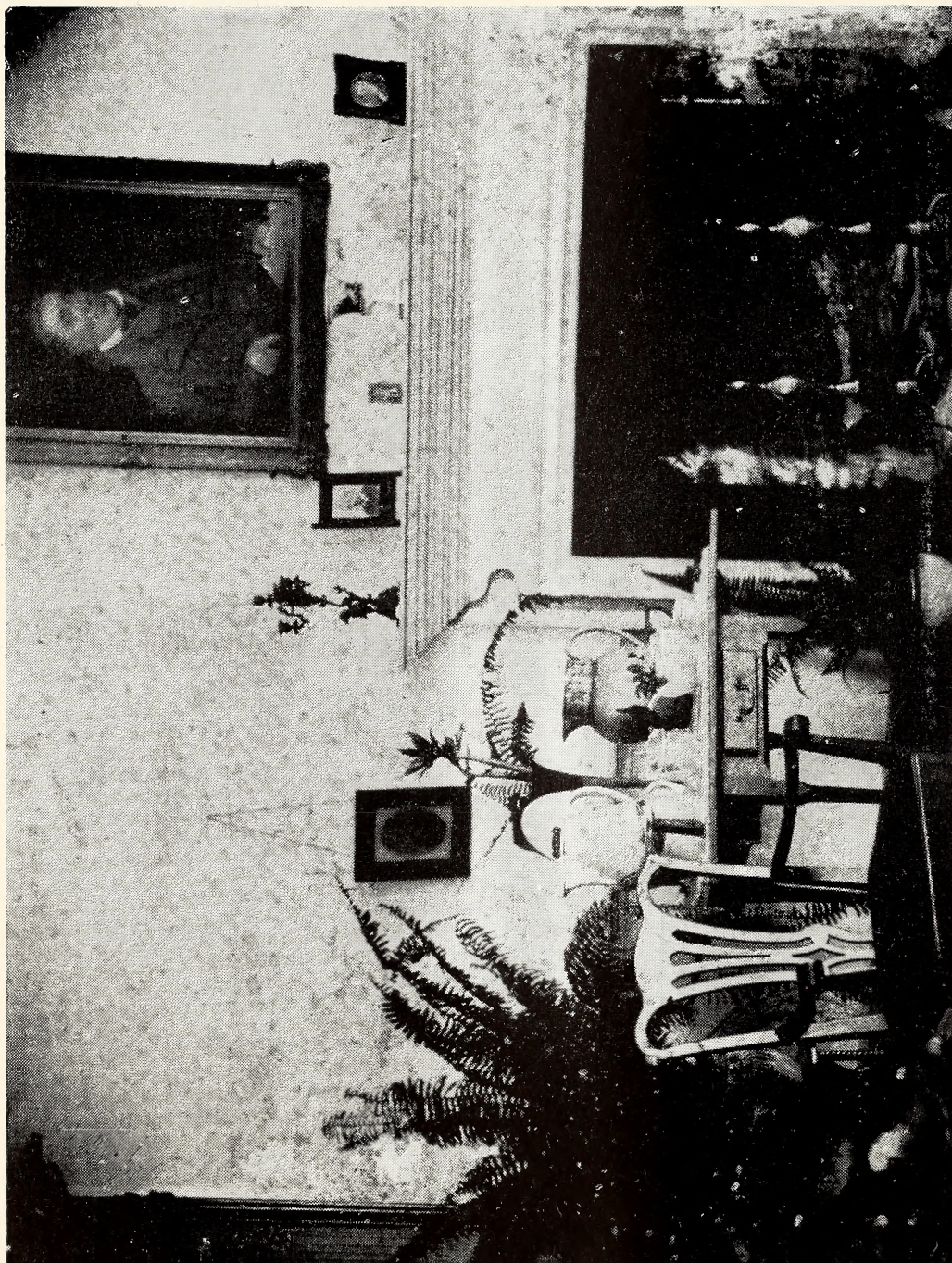
I am Your Loving Father

JACOB BLOUNT

You will Inform Mr Price, the little Stear he sold me John Clames and Saith that he has Several More of the Same Marke Now at hom Mr. Price will Remember I told him that as Soon as Johns Cow had a Young Calf that the Stear Suckt her and that thay Came into this Nabourhood togeather.

J B

⁷⁰Rodman Manuscripts. This letter was probably written by one of the Blount children for the father.



Living Room in the John Gray Blount Residence
Washington, North Carolina

Louisa Informs me Reading Wrote a letter for You But it is mislaid Therefore You had Better Brake Johns letter as I expect it contains something he would wish you to know J B

Addressed: William Blount

Piney Grove

C/ Black

William Blount to John Gray Blount

PINEY GROVE August 31st. 1783

Sirs,

The following is a letter that I received by the Post from New Bern.

“HALIFAX Aug^t. 24th 1783

Dear Sirs,

I the other day presented your Warrant to the Treasurer for Payment he let me have twelve hundred and Eighty pounds for Nash & Spaights Warrants. Six hundred & forty Pounds of which I let Captain Read have as your Part of the Purchase Money of the Ship. I could not Collect enough of Simmon's Debts to pay your part and mine. The Balance of Six hundred and forty pounds I now send you by G. Davis. The Treasurer promises Payment in a few days of Hawkins & Williamson's Warrants and as soon as I receive it I shall send it down to you

I am &c. H. MONTFORT

To W^m. Blount”

This letter has much distressed me and obliged me to write a long letter to Spaight Yesterday on the Subject I am distressed two ways. first that Spaights Money [2] is applied to my Use & secondly that I shall be obliged to apply Hawkins & Williamson's Money especially Williamson's for if He should ever know it He will think that He ought to own a Part of the Ship and beside I fear you have made Engagements for H & W. Money which I have taught you to believe would be at Hand daily. Herewith I send you the Rough of the letter I sent Spaight which you possibly will be able to read. When I was at Blount Hall Colman told me that He had determined with Reading to set out for Halifax tomorrow Morning & I have sent an Express to B. Hall in search of Reading, begging him to come down here today. if He does not and I do not know whether He is yet returned

from Wilmington I must certainly send an Express to Halifax. If Isaac has not left you before this reaches you please send me General for the purpose and if He has I must sent after him (the Horse). If you will come out here on Sunday next with the Horse Chair & Papers &c I will set out on Monday for Wilmington [3] If Doctor Loomis or any othere Person going to Halifax are to return immediately beg them to call on Montfort and inquire if he has any Command for me for it may be that I may be disappointed in sending my Express. I have a very strong Suspicion that the New Mony must depreciate from what I can hear from my Nieghbours who have been at New Bern lately, They say Numbers of People have flocked down from Halifax to lay it out & buy any thing they can lay hold of, that two Stores will not sell for it Vipon's & Goods (I suppose Lyons & Willeys Goods) that every Article is on the Rise particularly Rum & Sugar. that Jones makes 1/ difference in a Bushel of Salt between New & hard Mony & that there is 25 P Cent difference at Halifax, these two last Reports I do not believe but there are enough who will & the Consequence is the Same as if the Reports were true and it is very certain that the Merchants are very desirous to give 12/ all Mony for Tar since the Arrival of the New Mony among them—It is clearly my Opinion that a Man ought to make Contracts for as much New Mony as He probably will Shortly have in Hand—[4] If we are owners in the Ship had not Read best be informed what you say about Tobago? It is with much Pleasure I find the Brig Young has arrived not so much for the profit of the Voyage as on Acc^t. of Jacob as it proves his ability to command. I am much obliged to you for sending the Pork & Cooper.

When Jones was here he told me that He had Bar Iron plenty. I must apply to him for a few hundred Weight by some Boat in the Course of a few days as I fear there is no Hopes from your quarter. This last Week We have gone on very well with the Mill Mr. Allen mends in his Health & Sumers has also been here—If you do come out in Order to set me off for Wilmington I wish you would come on Saturday—I am &c

W^m. BLOUNT

Mr. J. G. Blount

*Micaj Thomas⁷¹ to Thomas Blount*31st. August 1783

Dear Sir

The negro wench I purchased of you is Run away and I have reason to beleave that She Is gon back to washington. I Shall esteem it as the greatest favour If you will instruct the bearer Mr. Collings how to proseed so as to catch her, and bid my reasonable Reward to any of your neighbours that will take her up and Send her to your Self. I will pay any expense to any man that you would contract with to bring her to me. If She can not be taken while this man is down, I am expect She will indeavour to git back to where She was Raised, but am convinced that She will call for her Husband [2] With Respect I am Dear Sr. your most Obedient Humble Servant

MICAJ. THOMAS

Addressed:

Mr. Thomas Blount

Merchant

Washington

By Mr. Collings

*Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount*PHILADELPHIA Septemr. 2^d. 1783

Sir,

I wrote you on the 30th Ult. by Armsteads brig bound to Edenton & inclosed the prices Current at this place & New-york—

The Brig has not yet arrived—None of our friends here have the power to serve us (tho' to do them justice I do not believe they want inclination) except Mr. Stanley who treats me with the utmost politeness, has obliged me to make his house my home & offers me a Credit to any amot. that I can assure him will be paid with punctuality—which offer, the necessity of having Goods at Tarborough this Season & the probability of the market for Naval Stores being kept up for some months at least, will induce me to accept to the amount of 4 or £500 Sterling. The Brig Cargo, altho Tobacco has fallen & seems not to be in

⁷¹Micaj Thomas was a justice of the peace of Edgecombe County and was also a member of the state assembly for a number of times. *Colonial Records of North Carolina*, VI, 340.

great demand will probably nett £ 1100 Currency—& Mr Stanly thinks I shall be able, with his assistance, to get Goods at £ 185 Currency for £ 100 Sterling, but I fear I shall not be able to procure quite so good an assortment as we wish—I must now tell you the Conditions of all Credits obtained here [2] here which will at once convince you of the necessity of laying yourself out for making immediate remittance—The term cannot exceed 5 months & generally not more than 3 or 4. for which a note is given signed by two good Persons which note, sixty days before it becomes payable, may be & generally is, carried to the Bank & exchanged for Cash at half a PerCent discount—the managers [of] the Bank three days before your [note] is payable give you or your agent notice of it & if you delay payme[nt] a single hour beyond that time your Credit is lost, beyond a possibility of being retrieved by any future punctuality, with the Bank—I have told you in my former Letter that I had it in Contemplation to send the Brig round to New York, but it will be necessary to the obtaining a Credit here that I decline it—therefore if the Tobacco will not Sell immediately shall leave it in the hands of Mr. Turner. Mr Hawkins is now here[,] left Congress on Saturday last & informs me that no official Acco^{ts}. have been rec^d of the signing of the definitive treaty—The Emperor of [3] Morocco has given orders to protect & encourage the American flag & sent an Ambassador to meet our Ministers in France for the purpose of settling a treaty of Commerce The King of Spain has given orders that a preference be given to our Naval Stores & all other produce throughout his dominions—The much talk'd of War in Europe is supposed to be inevitable—[I] mention the above that you may [be] the better able to judge of the Value [of] the produce of our Country—Willie & W^m. Blackledge are well & pleased with their Situation—if you like the terms that Goods are to be had on, [and] chose [choose] to have more I can foresee the way of paying for them—more may be had if the application is speedily made

I am

as usual

Yours &c.

THO^s. BLOUNT

Addressed: Messrs. John G. & Thos Blount

Merchts

Washington

N^o Carolina

William Blount to John Gray Blount

Enclosure

HALIFAX September 4th 1783

Dear Sir,

I recd yours by Allen with your accountps which I handed in to the bord, on examination past it & the intrust; there being no money on hand put it out of there power to discharge it, tho Col^o. Long & Montfort Sent me seven hundred pounds which I hope will be as much as you want at present—God knows when it will be in my power to leave this as there is no money to be had yet, but, as soon, as money comes to hand, so as to in able me to to pay of [off] my debts I shall leave this—

Mr. Montfort informs me he has not as yet recd any money for you on any account what ever; Medicee [*sic*] is at New York. & its not likley that I shall see Green Hill, but [will] keep the warrants in case I should see him—

Allen can inform every thing [2] worth mentioning—Mr. & Mrs. Ashes Compliments to the Family

I am

Yours,

R BLOUNT

Addressed: Colo William Blount

Piney Grove

Honored by Mr. Allen

Sirs,

The above will Serve to Show what Success Watt. Allen had & the inclosed letter will Shew Spencers Business. I have no Wise [no money?] but I hope you or Mr. Blackledge have—

I am happy to lend Mr. Blackledge the £100 you mention'd he wanted which I send by the Bearer—I shall pay Spaight just 540 £ so there will be just £100—due to him. If Blackledge has been supplied or won't Want it I wish you would by next Post send it to W. Grainger who I shall direct to pay it to Spaight in Case you send it—I set out early in the Morning

I am

W^m. BLOUNT

Monday 11 O'Clock

*Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount*PHILADELPHIA Septem^r. 9th. 1783

Dear Sir,

Your favour of the 22^d. Ult. came to hand P yesterday's Post the Contents of which I have noted & shall pay due respect to— Since my last the prospect of obtaining a Credit has brightened very much—Mr. Stanly offers to be our Security to any Amount I may think proper to take & will assist in procuring as long a Credit as possible—Mr. Barr yesterday informed me of a Gentleman of his intimate acquaintance who had just rec^d. a large assortment of Course Cloths &c. from Ireland which he can procure for me at £200 Currency for £100 Sterling on a Credit of four Months—this price is here supposed to be low for such Goods are getting very scarce—I have not yet determined whose offer to accept but have resolved on the faith of the Bill you allude to to take at least £300 Sterling on Credit at four Months unless I can make better terms & if I can extend our Credit to Six months I will take £500—the nature of Credits here I told you in my last, therefore it's needless to say more on that head—Tobacco is fallen to 45/ & dull Sale even at that price—there is an amazing quantity now in the City unsold—Turpentine is worth 5 Dollars—Pitch 4. & Tar 3—but as there is now but very little at Market I expect if the Brig arrives soon to get 25/ for Tar—Bees Wax⁷² is worth from 2/ to 2/3 & Tallow 12^d P.^{wt}—I shall give all possible dispatch to the Brig & will, in consequence of the necessity of your going to the Assembly, take [2] passage in her—The Americans are not at liberty to trade to Havanna—Agreeable to W^m. Blounts instructions I shall make particular enquiry respecting the Trade to Tenereffe & other places—Mr Stanly intends to Speculate largely in Pork this Season if you should determine on such Speculation you must give orders to Augustus to engage Barrels & much depends on their being very good—Mr. Stanly & Mr. Turner both tell me that Edw^d. Bryan is not a Book keeper & if he was he is retained in their Service—therefore I will endeavour to get a

⁷²Beeswax was often included in the market quotations. It was used for making candles, seals for letters and documents, etc. Tallow was also used for candlemaking.

Bookkeeper for you here & bring him with me—the Millstone cannot be Cut time enough to come in the brig—I am

affectionately

Yours

THO^s. BLOUNT

Addressed: Mr. John Gray Blount

Mercht.

Washington

North Carolina

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

PHILADELPHIA Septem^r. 11th. 1783

Gentlemen,

The Brig Richard has not yet arrived & I fear her delay will occasion a considerable Loss⁷³ on the Cargo for Tobacco is falling daily & should a Cargo of Naval Stores arrive before her it will probably affect the price of that Article very sensibly to our prejudice—Tobacco is now worth only 45/p 100 wt Pitch 30/Tar 22/6. & Turpentine 37/6 p B^u. I have endeavored to Sell the Richard's Cargo before her arrival but could not unless I would fix on a certain day for the delivery of it & agree to pay all damages that should be sustained by delays—

I have examined the different Stores to know where I could immediately furnish myself with such Articles as I want & the lowest price & find that I can get what Coarse Cloths I may want at £185 Currency for £100 Sterling for Cash or £190 on a Credit of four Months which I have before told you was the longest time obtainable—Linens & such other goods as we want may be had at or near the same price except Blankets & Rugs which being very scarce will Cost something more—perhaps £200 or £210 for £100—

Our friend Mr. James Barr has shown a great deal of attention to me & been very communicative respecting the Trade to the different parts of the World from this place—he says that Staves are never worth less than £18 Sterling P M [per thou-

⁷³The *Richard*, a brigantine of seventy tons, was owned by the Blounts. Port Beaufort Customs for 1787 (North Carolina Department of Archives and History), December 4. The market was so limited that the arrival of more than one vessel with similar cargoes was likely to glut it.

sand] at Maderia, Tenereffe or Lisbon & often up as high as £40—& that from the Latter we may import China or any other kind of Goods, particularly India, cheaper than from any other part of the World—or if we choose we may have our [2] Produce shipped from our a/c on good terms to any port in Europe—Tar, Pitch, & Turpentine will also answer extremely well at that Market for admit we get for them only what they Cost in the Baltic our profit on them will be very handsome & much better than we can get by shipping them to any other place—Wheat is also an Article that would bear Shipping very well to Lisbon—at either of the three places mentioned We can get good Bills on any part of Europe if we choose them in preference to Wines or Merchandise—but Wines will always sell for a handsome profit at this place.

On a presumption that this information (which I consider as very Authentic) will determine you to send the new Brig to one of the three above mentioned places I shall inclose you the only dimensions of the Staves & heading that will sell at them Markets & this Market requires the same for very many are shipped to them places from here—

A Lisbon voyage would be most advantageous & a voyage to Madeira least so Mr. Barr & myself concur in opinion that a small Vessel to carry about 250 or 300 Barrels might be constantly employed to advantage in bringing Naval Stores to this place, for besides getting a tolerable profit on our produce we might be enabled to keep up our assortment of Goods—

If a considerable quantity of Flaxseed could be collected I think it would be an object worth attention. Mr. Barr assures me there is [3] always a ready Market for it here at 7/6 P Bush¹. in the State we buy it, & it will very often command from 10/ to 12/6 P Bush¹. it must be Shipped in Casks to hold about 7½ Bushels—Dimensions of the Staves, heading &c. I shall inclose with the dimensions of other Staves &c. before mentioned—

By the proclamation of the King of Great Britain, which you will herewith receive, you will observe that we are not permitted to Ship our own produce to any of the British West India Islands, & that British Vessels are not permitted to carry the Article of Pork, so that a speculation in that Article would be hazardous—It is also said that we are not allowed to carry provisions to the French West India Islands⁷⁴—The Port of

⁷⁴The ports of the British islands were closed to them, but the French ports were open to them. Unfortunately, French customs were so high as to be almost prohibitive.

Havanna is certainly shut against us & report says that a Ship belonging to this place was ordered from there after being admitted to an Entry.—

The price of Staves, Shingles &c. is very fluctuating here but Mr. Barr supposes they will at any time bear as good a price as they do at present—Staves are now worth only £7.10. & Shingles such as I described to you in a former Letter £5. a £5.10. but Staves are often up as high as £12. or £14.—& Shingles to £8—it however would not be prudent to send too many of either to this Market at one time, so that if you should approve the plan of keeping a small Vessel employed between this & Washington it would be best to let her Cargo consist of Tar, Pitch, Turpentine, Staves, & Shingles according to the conveniency of getting them—[4] Here follows the Dimensions for Staves, Heading &c. to answer this market, Lisbon, Madeira, Tenereffe & all parts of France, Spain & Portugal. (viz^t. Pipe Staves 4 feet 8 inches Long, $\frac{5}{8}$ inch thick on the heart edge & $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches Wide clear of Lap—Heading for Ditto. $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet long & $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick at the thinnest edge—

Hogshead Staves $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet Long, $\frac{5}{8}$ inch thick on the heart edge & $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide clear of Sap—Heading for Ditto. the same as Pipe—

Casks for Flaxseed to be

35 inches Long—oak

$22\frac{1}{4}$ Ditto at the head—thin pine is best

To be bound with ten hoops & made nearly water tight—

I have now given you every necessary information that occurs to me—A Bill Scantling of the Still⁷⁵ I shall bring with me—I am in treaty with a young Irishman, who is well recommended as a Book-keeper for you—his terms will be about £100 P Year—but his Country makes so much against him that I am yet doubtful whether I will employ him or not—If Dennison arrives here by the 15th. you may expect him back by the 1st. October—Remember me to your family & friends & believe me

As usual

Yours affectionately

THO^s. BLOUNT

⁷⁵The Blounts, apparently, were building a still to make spirituous liquor. See Samuel Carey to Hugh Williamson, Boston, November 15, 1783, below, p. 129.

William Blount to John Gray Blount

NEW BERN September 12th 1783

Sir,

I have recevd the Mony & Packett by Mr. Jones. Pray write to the Delegates one or both & tell them that I am out of the Way that You opened their letters and reply to the Merchantile Passages. Tell that you have sent an Express to the Governor on Business and that you have desired him to send Warrants for a further Sum in their favor to me and tell them that their first Warrants are not paid owing to the Bad Conduct of the Treasurer who will not attend as by the law directed to receive it from the obstinate Commissioners who have the making it.⁷⁶ In a Passage of a letter of Doctor Guions from a Mr. Mc-Cloud to him dated at Philadelphia August 18th 83 is the following Passage "Naval Stores here sell by the quantity for the following Prices Tar 27/6. "Pitch 30/ Turpentine 35/."—Spaight has agreed to my Proposal nearly I am to pay him 200 Dollars in February. 200 in March & 400 in April. in Philadelphia I shall take it with me to Wilmington & shall set out this Evening. I opened the letters that you will see my Name [2] on from Wilmington. I am pleased with the Contents of P. M. letter. On Sunday last in the Evening Roach was at my House and wishes to be off the Tar Bargain as the Price 10/ but will deliver it at Markett Price at the time first proposed. He said so much on the Subject that He convinced me that if Tar was more than 10/ that he would not deliver his at it. In reply finally I told him that, I had made the Bargain for You of which I had given you Notice that I was sure he would not in Case you insisted to have his Tar at 10/ fly from the Bargain, that you would depend on his Tar at some price and at 10/ if You choose but that I thought you would probably allow him Markett Price So that I believe you will be obliged to give him Markett Price tho' you need not write him on the Subject before my Return—Tar is here very current at 12/ every Body in Want and None to sell I fear it will rise. I write to Tom by Guion's Vessell I am &c.

W^m. BLOUNT

⁷⁶This is one of the blots on the reputation of the Blounts. There was no stigma in their using the money of the delegates; they did that more than once with the knowledge of the owners, whose dependence on them for obtaining hard money gave the Blounts some claim to favor, but there was little excuse for the fabrication, except their own opportunism. John Gray did as William suggested. See Benjamin Hawkins to John Gray Blount, October 4, 1783, below, p. 116.

*William Blount to John Gray Blount*NEW BERN Sep^t. 13th 83

Mr. Ritter arrived here yesterday from Philadelphia he say Tom Blount is there well. Ogden had letters from Duncan dated 30th August in which He also says Tom had arrived there Via New York. Duncan in his letter says he can supply Ogden with any Quantity of Goods at 3 or 4 Months Credit & if necessary longer & urges him Strongly to send Orders for Goods. He gives the same prices of Naval Stores as mentioned to you except Tar he says 25/. Duncan also says that Stanly is looking out for a Vessel or two to Ship a large quantity of Goods in & to purchase up Naval Stores to [2] make Returns with—Medici [*sic*] arrived here from N. York says Goods are plenty and dear there—Mr. Thomlinson also arrived here yesterday in a Sloop from St. Kitts I have not seen him as did Cap^t. Willson in a Brig—I set out this Morning and Billy Grainger with Me for Georgia in Serch of Tom. Ogden whose Presence here is absolutely necessary. Medici says Sweet Potatoes are 5 Dollars per Bushell at New York which he begs I will not communicate, that a Vessel load would sell at that Price to retail at 1/ per w^t. in the Market. As I before told you they sold for more than [3] 1/ per C^t in Philadelphia Suppose you should procure about 30 Barrells of large clean washed Potatoes and Ship them in the Young by Way of Experiment⁷⁷—Gen. Caswell Wants his Son Winston to take a Voyage to Sea for his Health I have told him Jacob would give him a Passage to Philadelphia & that you would inform him when Jacob would sail and believe Spaight will probably go in her. Spaight bought 200 Barrells of Tar yesterday of old Respuss at 12/ to be delivered in 6 Weeks

I am &^cW^m. BLOUNT

Addressed: New Bern Way

Mr. John G. Blount

W ton

⁷⁷They did experiment with a load of sweet potatoes, but the lack of cultivation of northern tastes together with the perishable character of the product and the slow transportation made failure inevitable.

Joseph Putnam to William Blount

WILMINGTON September 19, 1783

Mr. William Blount

Sirs,

I have received your Proposals for loading my Sloop Active with Sweet Potatoes & will and do engage to take on full freight of that Article from you at two Shillings & four pence per Bushel to be paid me in New York and in Case of failure on my Part to receive the Cargo on Board in ten days I agree to make all Damage good—

I am

Your most

Obt. Servt.

JOSEPH PUTNAM

[*William Blount to Taylor & Rogers*]

[Copy]*

WILMINGTON September 19th 1783

Gentlemen,

I have here loaded a small Sloop commanded by a Captain Joseph Putnam on Acc^t. of John G. & Thomas Blount Merchants of Washington N^o. Carolina and have consigned the Cargoes to himself with Instructions to pay the Mony arising from the Sales into your Hands which you will please receive and pay to Mr. James Barr Merchant of Philadelphia or Order on their Acc^t. The letters you will receive herewith from Mr. Cruden for Mr Mallett will show you why I have taken the liberty to address them to you I am

Your most

Obt. Servt.

*This is apparently a letter which Blount copied and mailed to the addressees.

Thomas Blount to [John Gray Blount]

PHILADELPHIA Sept. 23^d. 1783

Sir,

Your favour of the 6th Ins^t. I rec^d. this day P.[er] Post & sincerely Congratulate you on your good fortune in the birth of your Son⁷⁸—&, if the honour of giving him a name is confer'd on me, you may rest assured I shall study to please my *very much respected* Sister & yourself.—

The Brig Richard arrived on the 19th Ins^t. in the evening, but unfortunately her great delay had induced me to make Insurance on her,⁷⁹ which with much difficulty was effected only about four hours before her arrival, at 3 P. Cent.

She brought only 119 Barrels Tar & 7 d^o. Pitch—the former I have sold at 22/6 P Bll & the latter at 30/—much more might have been obtained had she have arrived only three days sooner, but with her came [2] Stanly's Brig Lukey, Doct^r. Guion's Schooner & a Schooner belonging to a Sail maker in New Bern all loaded with Naval Stores which knock'd down the price so low that they are not able to sell even at that—

The Tobacco I have sold at 55/. Such as proves to be of the first quality but of that I fear I shall have but little I have as yet open'd only three Hogs Heads of which only one passed their inspection⁸⁰ & another of them was very wet which I have luckily go off at 40/—making an allowance of 50w^t to the purchaser—These circumstances may Convince you that (admitting all the rest of the Tobacco to be really good) after paying Premium for Insurance, Pilotage, Wharfage, Cooperage of Tob^o. &c. the Cargo will Scarcely Nett £700—

The Copartnership of James & Drinker is dissolved & the latter has declined business but the former, under the firm of Abel James and [3] and Sons, carries on a very extensive Trade—to him, therefore, I presented my Father's Letter of recommendation which he treated with the utmost respect & in consequence thereof has offer'd us a Credit to any amount I may think proper to take on the following terms viz^t. That I shall pay him £500 down, one half the Balance at four months & the

⁷⁸This was a boy named William. He did not live much over a year. The Blounts named another child William after this one died. They had other children with the same or very similar names to those of the ones who had died. Blount Bible (North Carolina Collection, Library of the University of North Carolina).

⁷⁹At this time insurance was often taken out when a vessel failed to arrive on time, instead of on the date of its sailing.

⁸⁰The Blounts found northern inspectors more exacting than those of North Carolina.

other half at Eight months—he to let me have Goods at the Cash price, which is, for some Articles £ 190 Currency for £ 100 Sterling & for others (such as by the bye we want most of) as high as £ 200, 210, or 215 for £ 100—upon an average he supposes they will come at 2 for 1—

To this proposition necessity Compels me to accede because I cannot obtain so advantageous a Credit with any other man in the City—Tomorrow I shall examine his Invoice & if I find that his Goods are well bought, take of him to the amo^t. of eight hundred or a Thousand pounds Sterling or perhaps as much as £ 1200—[4] He has now on hand fresh Goods to the amount of £ 50,000 Sterling—& makes amazingly rapid Sales from which circumstance I am induced to believe his terms as good, or perhaps better than any other man's—

Mr. Barr has been uniform & indefatigable in his endeavours to Serve me & I have promised him (I mean his house)) the Consignment of the Brig Young & such other Vessels as we may send to this place, being well convinced there is not a man in the City (I believe I might say World) who will Serve us with more alacrity or honesty—in all probability the young's Cargo will come to a good Market, my reasons for thinking so are too prolix for a place here. Mr. Henry Cruger of Bristol is now in this City solliciting orders from the Merchants to send them Goods, his circular Letter on the Subject, I enclose, together with the news papers to the Post Master of your Town, for you, to save the Postage—[5] I have not yet the honour of that Gentleman's acquaintance, but purpose procuring an introduction thro' some of my Friends who are intimate with him & will endeavour to fix a Correspondence & Credit with him for Goods to come out in the Spring—He gives it as his decided opinion that it was not the intention of the King & parliament of great Britain by their proclamation, which I inclosed you by Mr Stanly, to prohibit the Merchants of America from trading to their West India Islands in their own Bottoms—but the Merchants of this place generally disagree with him in that matter—There is not a man in this City who can make such a Screw as you directed me to get for a Log Carriage, but I shall leave your instructions with Mr Barr who will have one made for you in the Country about 20 miles off & send it with [6] the Millstones in the Brig Young—I have now said all I can say—therefore with a request that you will indulge me in this *only* Satisfaction I have at this place of writing to you, & remember me

affectionately to Sister Polly & other friends, I will drop my pen after subscribing myself, as I always shall be—

Your affectionate Brother

THO^s. BLOUNT

Tho^s Blount

23d Sept. 83

P. S.

To save postage of this long Scrawl which it is not worth I inclose it, also to the Post Master & hope the perusal of the important News contained in the papers accompanying it will reconcile him to the Liberty I take in doing so—to cloak the affair I shall write you another small Letter which will cost you less than this would—

[Marginal] I thank you for telling me my Son is well.

John Donelson⁸¹ to William Blount

SULIVAN C^{ty}. 24th. Sept. 1783

Sir.

I flatter^d. myself with the pleasure of Spending Some days with You at the Assembly in Hillsbur^o. previous to the Opening of the Land Office, But a few days past I Reciev^d. an Express to meet the Chicasaw's Cheiffs in a treaty Appointed to be held with that Nation at the french Lick on Cumberland Ab^t. the 12th. of next month, and as it is a Business of importance I am Loath to make a Disapointment, Therefore I have Sent my Son Stockly Donelson with a mem^o. of Some Lands to be Located for our joint Intrest; But Much Dread the Confusion that may be on the Occasion; however Yours and other Gent^{mns}. Candour and integrity—May be a means of keeping good order; Agreeable to orders from our Tennessee Comp^y. I have with Col^o. [Joseph] Martin had a Conference with the Cherokees Chieefs for the purchase of the Great Bent of Tennessee Comprihended between the South Boundry of this State & The Tennessee, which they agree^d. to make over to the Comp^y. on the Goods Being Deliver^d. to them which was agreed upon, I wish to hear if You or any of the Company has Come to any terms with the State of Georgia as I am Aprehensive that unless a Grant from that

⁸¹See above, p. 57, n. 34.

State is not Shortly made Others will take possission of those Lands—without taking Notice of our Purchase, as I have been Lately [2] told that Gen^l. Rutherford is at this time making the Atemp & has ingaged many familys as Settlers. if that Should be the Case (in order to save so Valuable a Country) the Grant Should be Obtain^d. as speedily as posable.—

As my Sones John & Stockly are Desirious of Acting as Surveyors in the Western parts I would once more take the Liberty of Soliciting you for Your interest in Appointing them. Admittence of which fav^r. I shall Ever Bear about me, and Acknowledge

Please favour me with a few Lines Concerning those Several Businesses—and if ever You Shall think that I can be of any Service to You I beg you will Command me

I am Sir with much Esteem

Y^r. M^t. Hble Serv^t.

JN^o. DONELSON

William Blunt Esq^r.
at the Assembly—

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

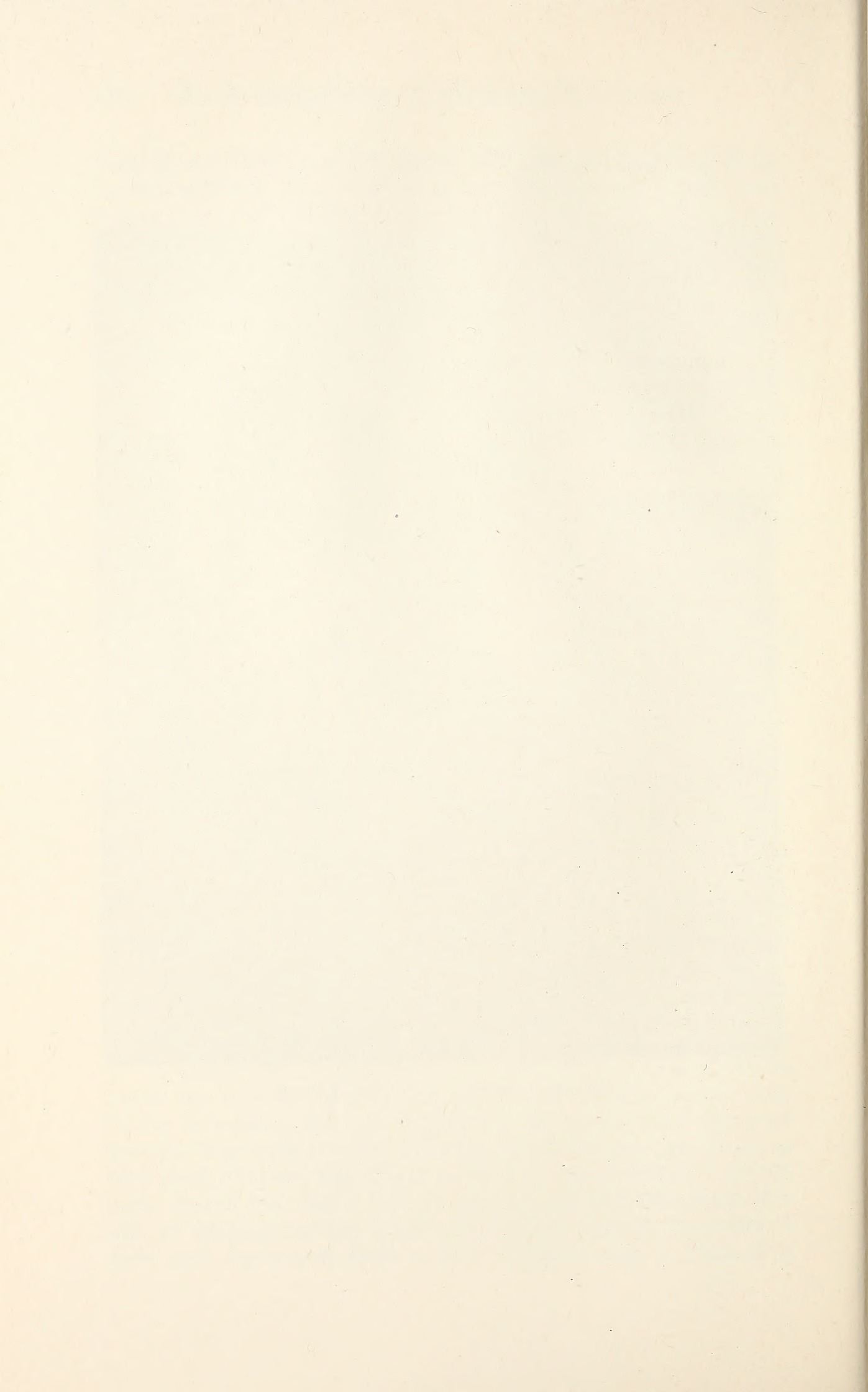
PRINCETON 26th Sept^r 1783

Dear Sir

Your Brother William writes me that he expected soon to be in Possession of some Proc for my Accot^t. and should put it into your Hands as it would serve for the use of buying Produce. In this manner I wish it all to be disposed of that he can command which be 2,000 Dlrs if the Gov^r. does his Duty. In the mean while I am in Hopes that I shall not have occasion to draw for any of the money before my Return. I sold a Tract of Land in Pennsylvan^a some time ago and by one means and another shall try to subsist till my Return to the State which I expect will be about the first of Dec^r. Of course it may possibly be in your Power to make a Turn to Philad^a out of the Produce, for your Brother Tho^s tells me that if he had Cash he could lay it out to very good Purpose. Had I been going home immediately I should have spared him some, but as matters are circumstanced if I can do without further help I shall think myself fortunate. I have just discovered from a New England man a Plan of a



The Blount Collection in the Hall of History



wooden Still which he thinks is much preferable to that in Philad^a. I shall try to bring correct Draughts of both. Perhaps I may try to get the iron work and other necessities made in Philad^a. On this Subject how [2] however I shall consult Tho^s. for if he gets that Business done I shall be saved of the Trouble. I am told there have been in general bad Crops made this Year in New England, of Course you may expect plenty of those Gentry in our State after Corn. I hope you are cautious how you engage any certain Price for Tobacco I think the great crops made every where this Year will reduce the price of that Article to 3½ Dls or 4 at most. There is a very considerable Hamburger⁸² in this Place, he is address'd by the City to Congress. he sets out soon to the Southward. I shall try to persuade him to give you a call. I have the Honor to be

Dr Sr

Your Obed^t Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr.

Washington

N. C.

Free Hu Williamson

*Alexander Martin⁸³ to John Gray & Thomas Blount,
Merchants*

DANBURY Septem 27th. 1783

Gentlemen,

I am favored with yours by Mr. Tho. Blount respecting Indian Goods—In answer to which I am not yet certain that Mr. Charles Johnson has declined his Engagement, tho' when I saw the Marquis of Bretigney I suspected it—but a late Letter from Mr Johnson informs me his Engagement depends on the Faith of the New Money, which I believe is pretty well established as yet between planter & Merchant. Therefore I cannot be off with Mr. Johnson until I hear further from him or see him, which perhaps will be this Assembly

⁸²Probably one of the partners of Casper Voght & Co. of Hamburg, Germany. See Benjamin Hawkins to John Gray & Thomas Blount, Princeton, November 7, 1783, below, p. 128.

⁸³Martin as governor of the state was considering the proposition of the Blounts to furnish goods which would be used in making a treaty with the Indians for the surrender of their lands.

Should Mr. Johnson not continue his proposal I shall with pleasure confer with you [2] on the Subject.—I expect the pleasure of seeing Mr. John Blount at the Assembly with whom a further Engagement may be Had (should Mr Johnson decline) on this Business, if they will agree with my Terms, that is to transact the Business on Commission, or any other way more beneficial for the Importers and the State.—

I am with great Respect
Gentlemen,

Your most obedient
humble Servant

ALEX. MARTIN

Mess^{rs}. J. G. & Tho. Blount
Merch^{ts} in Co.

PS.

Col^o. William Blount already has my Warrant in Fav^r of Doc^r. Williamson, so has also Mr. Michael Payne to the amount of his Salary this year.—

Thomas Henderson⁸⁴ to John Gray & Thomas Blount, Merchants

GUILFORD. 29th. Sept 1783

Gentlemen

I have on Hand 12 or 13th Hogsheds of Tobacco, and had some thoughts of sending the same to Petersburg until Mr. Thomas Blount informed me that he had every reason to believe that the Market for that Article would be as good at Washington or Tarb^o. as at any port in Virginia; I am and always was desirous of encouraging the trade of my own State, in preference of any other and [2] and want nothing but your assurance of the within assertion, and that goods may be had on as good terms as in Virg^a. not only to carry my Tobacco to your Markets but recomend the same to the planters on this river. You will do well to advertise [advise?] us of your intentions as soon as possible. Goods suitable for Negroes and of an Inferior Kind

⁸⁴Thomas Henderson was a brother of Richard and Samuel Henderson. He was a donor of the land on which Martinville in Guilford County was founded. He served as clerk of court of Guilford and Rockingham counties and was on the committee for building the county courthouse of Rockingham. *State Records of North Carolina*, XXIV, 746, 779-780; Henderson, *North Carolina; The Old North State and the New*, V, 629.

would be most acceptable to us in the back Country together with the West Indian Produce as a great Majority of us are listed under the banners of that Jolly God *Bacchus*

I am Gentlemen with Respect

Yours &c

THO HENDERSON

Addressed: Messrs. Blounts

Merchants in Washington and Tarborough

fav^d. by Mr. Tho. Blount

Thomas Blount to John Gray & Thomas Blount, Merchants

PHILADELPHIA Sept. 29th. 1783

Dear Sir,

I rec^d. your Letter of the 14th Inst. Pr. yesterday's post—In my last I inform'd you of the arrival of the Richard—I have sold 18hh^{ds}. of ours & Six of Cap^t. Tools Tobacco at 53/PrC^t. the rest is said to be of an inferior quality & is yet on hand—probably I shall not [?] be able to obtain more than 45/ PrC^t: for it—I expect to get Goods to the amo^t. of £1500 Currency more than the amo^t. of the Richards Cargo, some at four & some at Six Months Credit but at a higher rate than I could have got them for Cash when I first arrived here—The Tar I sold for 22/6 PrB^{ll} that Article is not in demand not being consider'd an export—The Bill you allude to for £500 Sterling must be obtained if possible & it will be the more valuable if drawn on London—it will in that case command Cash quick at 75 PrC^t.—Latest acco^{ts}. from London say that Tobacco of the first [2] quality Netts only 3^d 3/4 P^{wt}. in consequence of which the price has fallen here & must fall in Virginia & Carolina to the do price of 2 6/8 P^{wt}.—before it will bear Shipping—any quantity of good Deerskins will sell here immediately for Cash—the present price is 2/3 Pr in the [illegible].

I have fixed on this day week [for the ?] sailing of the Brig & without further continuation of my bad luck at sea expect to see you before this gets to hand—therefore it's needless to say more—with respect to your family

I am

affectionately

Your Brother

THO. BLOUNT

Altho' I address myself to you I direct to J G & TB. to make
us better known [as?] that firm—

Addressed: Messrs. Jno G & Tho. Blount

John B. Ashe⁸⁵ to John Gray Blount

[N D]

Dear Washington⁸⁶

I hope this may meet you and your family in perfect health
enjoying every Tranquillity from the peace on which I most
Sincerely congratulate you—

I wrote your Brother beging him to know of you whither I
cou'd get your Coach Maker to repair a Charriot and what
Meterials I Shoud bring with it that I cou'd not be furnish'd
with at Washington I have never receiv'd his or your Answer
—I will be extremely glad of one by Capt Cooper and will be
Singularly obliged to you to interest yourself in the Matter with
the Person it's most necessary repairs is Lining, Painting & cov-
ering We purpose seeing you [2] Sometime Shortly and flatter
ourselves you excused our not calling on our way from Cape
fear—Betsey Joins in best wishes to M^{rs}. Blount—M^r. & M^{sr}.
Blackledge—and the Sailor—[Jacob Blount, Jr.]

Believe me to be y^{rs}

As Usual

J. B. ASHE

Addressed: Colo John Blount

Washington

Captain Cooper

Benjamin Hawkins to John Gray Blount

PRINCETON October the 4th 1783

Dear Sir,

I have received your favour of the 14th of September: and
am much obliged by your polite Attention to me: I am satisfied

⁸⁵John B. Ashe was the grandson of John Baptista Ashe, prominent in the colonial annals of North Carolina. His wife, Elizabeth Ashe, was the former Elizabeth Montford, daughter of Colonel Joseph Montford. She is the "Betsey" referred to in this letter. Connor, *History of North Carolina*, I, 150, 316; Henderson, *North Carolina*, I, 370.

⁸⁶This address seems to be the fruit of absent-mindedness, since it is clear that the letter was intended for John Gray Blount.

if you had not interposed, that we should not be able to get a single shilling from our State—Situating as we are, we can make you no other return than our sincere thanks.—⁸⁷

The definitive treaty was not signed on the 9th of August, all the powers had nearly agreed, and it is probable it is concluded by this time:—Ours I expect will not contain a single explanation more than is in the provisional treaty, altho' many parts of it are expressed in terms capable of very dubious construction.—

Sir Guy Carleton⁸⁸ is slow in carrying into effect the orders he has received for the evacuation of New York; so much so that it is doubtful whether it will be accomplished this Fall.—

The following extract may be of some use to you, it is of a letter from the Berghmaster [burgomaster] and Senate of the Imperial Free City of the Empire Hamburg to the United States.

"Here governs a free unrestrained republican Commerce charged but with few duties.—Hamburg's situation upon the river Elbe is as if it were in the centre of the Baltic and the North sea and as Chanals are cut from the river through the City, goods may [be] brought in ships to the magazines in Town and from thence again to all parts of the world

Hamburg carries on its trade with Economy. It is the mart of goods of all Countries where they can be purchased not only of good quality but some times cheaper than at first hand.—Here linnen, Wollen goods, Calicoes, glass copper and all other numerous produced, manufactured and context wares of the whole German Empire are bought in by Portuguese, Spaniards the English Dutch French and other nations and from here further transported.—In exchange whereof considerable [2] Quantities of North American goods much wanted in Germany may be taken."—

The gentleman who brought the letter is not now here when I see him, I shall take care to know what exports from the United States can be exchanged to advantage there, at present

⁸⁷See William Blount to John Gray Blount, New Bern, September 12, 1783, above, p. 106.

⁸⁸Sir Guy Carleton, English governor of Quebec, who was an active officer in the Revolution.

I do not recollect any export from our State but Tobacco that would answer.—

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most obedient and

Most humble Servant

BENJAMIN HAWKINS

John Gray Blount esquire

John Whitaker to John G. Blount

[October 9, 1783]

Sir

I have Sent Some Wheat to Exchange for Salt: Be So kind as to assist My boy In gitting the best market: I want ten Bu^l: if there is grain to get as much. and Shoud there be a balance Coffe or Sugar will be exceptable—I intend to Hillsborough about the 13th of the Month. at which time I hope to Se you—Shoud^d. you Not incline to go to the assem^{ly}. Shoud^d. be glad to No Your Sentements with Respect to the prices of Tobacco and pork. At your port for Bacon I Shall have a little of both and wish to Exchange for Goods both Wet and dry In complying with my Request Youl Much Oblige

Your Verry Hble St.

JOHN WHITAKER

The 9 of Oct. 1783

Mr. John G. Blunt

The quantity of wheat is 8 Bu^l. of that good I have Recommended My Neighbors to you also

Addressed: To Mr John G Blunt

Merchant at Washington

James Barr to John Gray & Thomas Blount, Merchants

PHILADELPHIA 15th Octo^{br} 1783

Gentlemen

I have Just Re[c]^d Mr William Blounts Fav^r. of 27th Sept^r Inclosing a Copey of A Letter from (Him to Mess^{rs}. Taylor &

Rogers)⁸⁹ Directing them to pay the Neat [net] Proceeds of Capt Putmans Cargo of Potatoes into my hands, I shall apply for the money Immediately and write you the Event, This morning your Brig with your Brother left this place for yours (which I hope may prove successful.

I have nothing further material [material] to acquaint you of (as I expect you will see Mr. Thomas Blount in a few days time, who will be able to make you acquainted with everything that is now in my power.

I have only to Say I will attend to y^e the mune^y and sum he Left with me, & any Services I can Render You and any of your friends my Compts to all Frinds and W^m Blount in Particular I am Gent^{en}

Your most Humble
Ser^t JAMES BARR

Messrs John G. & Th^o. Blount

P. S. W^m Blounts Letter to Taylor & Rogers from Wilmington is Dated the 19th Sep^t & must be arrived Before this as She was to saile in Two Days after

J. B.

Addressed: John G. & Thomas Blount Merchts,
Washington
North Carolina

Per Post

Stephen Brooks to John Gray Blount

[October 15, 1783]

Dr Sir

I have been all Most Dead [sin]ce I was at washington and am but Jest able to go about But this Day I am going to [see] all that has burnt of their Tar [so as] to have it got Down as Soon as Posible and to get all that I Can by the time I will Bring it Down to washington and as much as in my power lies for I mean to Spend my time in geting as much for you as poseble—

From Your Most Obe^t Serv^t.

STEⁿ BROOKS

Oct^r 15th 1783

⁸⁹See William Blount to Taylor & Rogers [Copy], Wilmington, September 19, 1783, above, p. 108.

*John Allen⁹⁰ to John Gray Blount*PINEY GROVE Oct^r. 20th 1783

Sir/ I am to send by post £ 330: After I pay Such Debts as Mr. Blount directed me to do. There will not be more than 120 £ left for Jacob He wrote me yesterday he was in want of Cash to Repay some he had Borrow'd, There will be near 200 bb^l. Tarr at the Bridge this & next week which may be had there for the money—in new Bern they will give 13/ & 14/ P BB^l. I Can get at the Bridge for Tarr 11/ & 12/ = pitch at 19/—I Shall set [off] to New Bern to day Shall no [know] what money will do Jacob—and if you think proper to let the money be given for Tarr & pitch at the Bridge let me no and how much money to Keep for that purpose—Send by the Barer I Bushel Salt Some Coffee—& if you have any Ozenbry [Osnaburg] Send 6 yards = I left Mr [William] Blount well but Very uneasy on Acc^t of Mr. T. B[.] at wayn [Wayne]⁹¹ he heard from Wilmington Mr. Blithe was there[.] he Enform'd that Putnam Bound to New-york is Certainly lost = and the Sloop [2] Bound to Swansborough to take in Tarr was lost on her way also = The Ship Carolina Broake from her moring and Run in the marsh but was got of in 2 days after with no damage Thise misforchins happend on 7th Instant Mr Blount derected me to let you no [know] it as Early as Posable after my Return which was the 18th at night—

I am Sir your Very Hble Servant

JN^o. ALLEN

Mr. J. G. Blount

Addressed: Mr. John Gray Blount

Merchant

Washington

By Jack

*James Barr to John Gray & Thomas Blount*PHILAD^a. 20th October 1783

Gentlemen

I have duly Rec^d your Mr W^m Blounts Letters Directed to Mr Thomas Blount & in His absence to me (*By way of New York,*

⁹⁰John Allen seems to have been William Blount's overseer at Piney Grove. See sketch of William Blount in the introduction to this volume, pp. xix-xx.

⁹¹A county in North Carolina.

By Capt *Gill*) I have duly noted the Contents I have not yet heard of Capt Putnams arrivall on Friday I have an acquaintance going to New York, by him I will Write Taylor & Rogers, if the[y] have Rec^d the money he will Bring it for me, I have duly noted the Contents of W. B. Letter and if agreeable to you, to you to, take me in for a share (I Belive I have such a freind in Cadiz that will be able to obtain a Contract for what Naval Stores may be Wanted in Spain Provided he Can have the Consignment and I am Certain it would be mutually advantageious as he may be Depended upon as soon as I have your answer I will write him, Respecting the same, Since Mr Thomas Blounts Departure, Mr J Stewart and my Self have agreed to Commence partners in the Spring⁹²

Inclosed you have Two Letters I got in the office, as the were not Directed to me I have Inclosed them, I have nothing more to acquaint you of should anything occur, I shall not fail to Communicate

I am with due esteem your most

Humble Ser^t

JAS. BARR

Mess^r John G. & T. Blount

*Extract of a Letter from Casper Voght & Company to the
President of Congress (forwarded to John Gray Blount
by Benjamin Hawkins)*

“Excited more by a patriotic Zeal than Self-Interest, we humbly beg leave to remind you of the superior advantages peculiar to *Germany* it being in the opinion of very many great and learned men who have no further Interest in the revolution of Trade, than a sincere wish for the good of the whole of all places in Europe, *That* which best promises mutual Benefit from the conformity of its Climate with yours; having all the manufactures proper for your Trade: particularly those of the first necessity.

Hamburg a neutral, free and imperial City, happily situated upon the River Elbe, about eighty english miles from the Sea, is considered as the *Key* to all *Germany*, and the general maga-

⁹²The partnership was formed and became the most important commercial connection which the Blounts made.

zine of all the northern productions. The Harbour is continually full of Ships from almost every nation and so very safe and commodious, that the greatest [vessels] can anchor close to the Keys. It is also esteemed one of the richest and most flourishing Cities in Europe: there being none which have such an universal Trade in the products of America, and both the Indies; nor so well stored with all the manufactures indispensably necessary to the North Americans; who were formerly obliged to receive them in very unprofitable Terms from England. In this Town therefore, the American Merchant can be certain of meeting the best Market both for buying and selling”

*Benjamin Hawkins to John Gray Blount
with enclosure*

PRINCETON October the 22nd 1783

The above extract and that sent you formerly of the letter from the Bergermaster [Burgomaster] and Regency of Hamburgh may be of some use to your house if you should send any vessels to that City.—

I this moment received your favour of the 4th instant, and am much obliged by your polite attention [2] to me. It is particularly unfortunate for us that we are so situated as to be compelled to be troublesome to our friends, and not likely ever to have it in our power to render them any adequate compensation in return for their favours. This too while we are employed transacting the business of a State from which we have a right to expect ample support. You know too well, where the blame lies, and therefore I need not refresh your memory.—

Mr Hillbourn has shown me great marks of civility I believe at the request of your brother, as it was through him or Mr. Blackledge I became acquainted with that very honest gentleman, If He should have received the letter you mention from Mr. Blackledge, I shall immediately be informed thereof.—

Congress has Resolved to erect buildings for their use on the banks of the Delaware and Potowmac and to move to Annapolis for their residence and resolutions are

Resolved, that Buildings for the use of Congress be erected on or near the banks of the Delaware provided a suitable district can be procured on or near the banks of the said river for the federal town and that the right of soil and an exclusive or such other jurisdiction as Congress may direct shall be vested in the United States.

Resolved that the place on the Delaware for erecting buildings for the use of Congress be near the falls

Whereas there is reason to expect that the providing buildings for the alternate residence of Congress in two places will be productive of the most satisfactory effects by securing the mutual confidence and affection of the States.

Resolved that buildings be likewise erected for the use of Congress at or near the lower falls of Potowmac or Georgetown, provided a suitable district on the banks of the river can be procured for a federal town and the right of soil and an exclusive jurisdiction or such other as Congress may direct shall be vested in the United States [3] and that until the buildings to be erected on the banks of the Delaware and Potowmac shall be prepared for the reception of Congress their residence shall be alternately at equal of not more than one year and not less than six months in Trenton and Annapolis, and the president is hereby authorized and directed to adjourn Congress on the 12th day of November next to meet at Annapolis on the twentysixth of the same month for the dispatch of public business

PHILADELPHIA 28th Octr. 1783

After writing this letter I was under the necessity of comming to this City, and I determined not to Close the letter till I should be able to send you the papers of this day

Give my so dutiful Compliments
to our Friends and believe
me Your most ob^t.

amd most humble Serv^t.

BENJAMIN HAWKINS

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

PRINCETON 25th Oct 1783

Dr Sr

Being informed by Mr Nash⁹³ that he is not coming on I have taken the Liberty once more to ask our Gov^r for a little Mony & unless I am mistaken he ought to send an Order for at least 2000 Dls. I wish you would try to convey the Letter directed to him & that for your Brother to Hillsbro before the House rises. In that Case I think the Gov^r will not fail to give your Brother the Draughts in my favour. This you must suppose is an object with me and I have placed the matter in such a Light that I think the Mony will not be refused. Mr Hawkins has written in the same Stile.

I have the Honor to be
Your most obed^t and
hble Serv^t

Jn^o G Blount Esq^r

HU WILLIAMSON

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^ror Tho^s Blount Esq^r

Washington

Free Hu Williamson

*Alexander Martin⁹⁴ to William Blount*HILLSBOROUGH Oct^o 28th. 1783

Sir.

You will please consider me as a joint partner in the Adventure of the purchase of the Goods for the Cherokee Indians with J. Gray, and Thomas Blount Merchants in Company.

That I am to be chargeable with one half of the Expenditures for Produce necessary for the purchase of twenty five hundred pounds State Currency Value of Goods in Philadelphia, or where

⁹³Abner Nash, a native of Virginia, came to North Carolina in 1763. He was a delegate to the Revolutionary Congress in the province, a member of the Council of Safety, speaker of the first House of Commons after the Revolution, speaker of the Senate, governor of the state (1780-1781), and a delegate to the Continental Congress (1782-1786). He was one of the closest friends of the Blounts, particularly of William Blount, whom he made the guardian of his son, Abner. Ashe, *Biographical History of North Carolina*, I, 403-404.

⁹⁴Governor Alexander Martin's Letterbook (North Carolina Department of Archives and History), V, 245. This letter seems to intimate that Martin was entering a personal contract for the goods. He may have been speaking as the representative of the state. See above, p. 113.

they may be had on the best Terms; with one half of the Freight, and one half of such losses as may attend said Goods.

That I am to derive and Share one half of the profits that may arise on the [2] Sales and purchases of said Goods from the Original Invoices according to the Customs of Merchants in this State.—This if acceded to you will please to signify to

Sir,

Your most humble and
obedient Servant

ALEX. MARTIN

Addressed: Col^o. William Blount

[J. P. Putnam] to William Blount

NEW YORK Nov^r. 1^t 1783

Sir

by Post I take the opportunity to inform you I Arriv'd Safe y^e. 18th.. Oct. after a passage of 9 days Found the Marketts of Potatoes remarkable dull occasioned by the great quantity which had Arriv'd 3 weeks & later before my arrival, the price curr^t at my Arrival was 6 to 7/^s. Pr. single Bushell which did not las[t] but 2 days— being knock'd down by the arrival of a Number of Cargoes, from Virginia, there is at this present time no less than ten Load laying in the Port Selling for what any one will give, I have been in a fortnight & sold about 150 Bushell them I got rid of by employing a Cartman thro the City— I am Selling Now at 4/^s. according to the advice of Mr Taylor, whom I am directed to wait on for that Purpose—I cannot Possibly Lay any longer than the Middle of Next [2] week, My Agreement with Mr. Blount was only for a week, however there wont be any occasion as they will be all Spoild before that. more than one half are damag'd already I Settled with Mr Toomer according to agreement with Mr. W^m. Blount & have the freight for 998½ Bushells to Receive here if the Cargo will Pay which I am verry dubious—

I have had thots of Sending 100 Bushells to Rhode Island, where I fancy they would do much better than here, I have advis'd with Mr Taylor on the Subject who says he would have me do as I think proper as he's unacquainted [with conditions there] I can get them car'd there reasonable & if I tho't t'would

meet with Your aprobation I should gladly Serve you but to do it without free concent of Mr Taylor Should lay myself culpate however that will determine, it as I am now waiting as I am writg for his Return—The British will leave this place 7th of this month as I am informed by a General officer

[3] Nov 1 83

Addressed: Mr Blount

Mert

Washington North Carolina

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

PRINCETON 1st Nov^r. 1783

Dear Sir

On the 3rd of Sept^r the definitive Treaty was signed on which I give you Joy. Mr Thaxter Mr Jn^o Adams' Secy is bringing it over. He took his Passage in the Packet from Port L'Orient which saild on the 20th of that Month. A gentleman who saild after him is arrived.

Mr Van Berckell⁹⁵ had his public Audience yesterday. On the 12th we are to adjourn for Annapolis to meet them on the 26th. Be so good as desire the Post Master to inclose Letters for Delegates accordingly.

I have the Honor to be

Dr Sr

Your obed^t hble Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

Jn^o G: Blount Esq^r.

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r

Washington

Free Hu Williamson

William Blount to John Gray Blount

TARBOROUGH Nov^r. 6th. 1783

Dear Sir

I am this far on my Way Home and if I had not been detained here yesterday I should have come by Washington & shall set

⁹⁵See *State Records of North Carolina*, XVII, 131.

out today for Home and will meet you on Sunday next at Pierces⁹⁶ by II O'Clock or 12 at farthest when I will talk about back lands &c

At Hillsbro Goods are sold very fast & very high at least what cost 1/ Sterling they sell for 5/ and sometimes 6/ yet every body seems disposed to support the Credit of the Mony and the Tavern keepers real[ly] sell Tavern cheap. At Halifax Goods are scarce and dear and People both there & at Hillsbro seem to have an insatiable Thirst to purchase and the only question with the Purchaser is whether he has Mony enough to pay the Price asked by the seller. W. Montfort has about £2500 with which he has sent P. Martin out to purchase Goods, he is gone first to Edenton & is directed to continue on to Wilmington Via Washington. This keep to yourself. Tho' I think the Mony must hold nearly at its original Value yet I would advise that he should not purchase many of your Goods at the Prices you are now selling them at or rather not at all provided you can parry him well—[2] Winslow is gone to Edenton & will return Home by way of Washington he is ever very hospitable to me his house is my Home[.] indeed to all the Family when at Fayette Vill, I have desired him to ride out to your House without Ceremony and assured him that you would be glad to see him. Tom here by my advice sells his Goods much higher than you do tho not so high as Hillsbro or Halifax. I think you are right in selling low because with you I suppose most of the mony taken here must be laid out. My Compliments to Polly & Milly. You must not fail to meet me—I am

Your's &

W^m. BLOUNT

I have recved 1000 Dollars more for Hawkins

800 D^o. fir Williamson

£2500 pr to purchase Indian Goods

all which is this Moment received amo^{ts}. Shall bring it with me to Pierces.

Addressed: Mr. Jno. G. Blount

Washington

⁹⁶Pierces's house was between New Bern and Washington. William Attmore's Personal Diary (Southern Historical Collection, The Library of the University of North Carolina), March 13, 1790.

Benjamin Hawkins to John Gray & Thomas Blount

PRINCETON November 7th, 1783

Gentlemen

Our honourable friend Doctor Williamson has promised me to write to you from Philadelphia, and I should not now send you this had I not promised you a scrole by every post, and had I not yesterday had the pleasure of seeing one of the partners Casper Vought & Company⁹⁷ an extract from whose letter I sent you by some former conveyance. This gentleman is very agreeable, and I believe a merchant has assured me that he would pay particular attention to any orders from you, either for Merchandize or information for w[h]ich within this month [he will] address a letter to your house from Annapolis:—

The evacuation of New-York may be effected within this month we have no assurances [2] that it will;—General Washington goes on Monday to West-point and from thence I believe into private life,

I have the honour to be with great
and sincere esteem,

Gentlemen

Your most obedient &
most humble Servant

BENJAMIN HAWKINS

Mess^{rs}. John Gray & Thomas Blounts*Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount*

Tarb°. Nov 8th 1783

Sir,

Cap^t. Boyd delivered his Cargo safely on Wednesday night & left this yesterday morning—I opened my Goods yesterday & sold about £ 60 worth for paper today I have sold to the amount of £ 30. & rec^d 46 hard Dollars—I have added 50 P Cent on your selling price & think my Sales will be rapid at that—Tho. Hall informs me that there is living at Kentucky a woman whose testimony will inevitably secure Barbers negroes to his Children—He has a dedimus for taking her deposition & strenuously recommends that a careful man should be sent out there immedi-

⁹⁷German merchants of Hamburg who were seeking commercial connections in America.

ately for the purpose at any expence & as a reason for advising this measure assures me that her deposition was once taken in the affair before Duncan Lamon—which contained all the proof now necessary to be had—W^m. Blount left here this morning & has written [2] you by the bearer to meet him at Pearces on Monday next—he carried home your Chair & will bring it to Pearces with him—When Nancy Harvey comes up send me the set [of] small Weights which I bro^t. from Philadelphia & by the first boat that comes to this place I will thank you to send up my Barrel flour

I wish Nancy to come up on Monday or Tuesday if the weather is good—as I shall want my horses, Yorrick being unfit for use—say Howdye to all & believe

Yours

THO. BLOUNT

My friend Haywood⁹⁸ wants a pair of Wedding Shoes for Miss Hare if any to be had in Washington please send them by Nancy—he also want a pair White kid or Silk Gloves—which send if to be had.

Addressed: Mr Jno Gray Blount

Washington

By Jac

Samuel Cary to Hugh Williamson

BOSTON 15th Nov^r. 1783

Sir

A few days since my father handed me a letter which he rec^d from you wherein you Mention that a friend of yours in North Carolina, [John Gray Blount] is erecting a distillery there, & wishes to have some person from this place, who is master of the Business, to Carry it on—As I am at prisent Unfixt in any steady way, I should like (if you think it would be agreeable to your friend) to take a concern with him, Namely, to furnish some part of the Stock & to Attend the Business—

It is a Business I was regularly taught, & am well acquainted with, & for a Number of years had the Care of my fathers distillery in Charlestown till it was destroyed by the British Troops

⁹⁸John Haywood, treasurer of North Carolina.

—If you would be so kind as to consult your friend on the Matter [2] & let me know soon whether a proposall of this kind would be agreeable to him. I should Consider it as a favor

I am Sir

with Sentiments of Esteem

Your obed^t Hum^{ble}. Servant

SAM CARY J^r

PS I could go to Carolina by Water with little in convenience, & being a Batchalor am always ready for a Movement, at an hours Notice—I suppose there would be No Difficulty in Supplying a Distillery with Malt^s in that Country—

My father has wrote by a private oppy

Hugh Williamson Esquire

Addressed: Honble Hugh Williamson Esquire
Congress

James Barr to John Gray & Thomas Blount

PHILAD^a 18 Nov^r 1783

Gentlemen

Dear Sirs

I have duely Re^d your esteemed favour and am Sincarly Glad in Tho^s Blount is arrived Safe at home, yours of the 1st Instant is Just Come to hand this morning, wherein you advise me of the Sailing of a Schooner, with 303 Barrells of Navy Stores & Staves & Heading is not yet arrived, if she arrives I will attend to all your Requests with all the Punctuality in my power, the Bage Schooner Leaves this for Willmington to day I wrote you by Last post I had sold her Cargo at 20/ Per Barrell for the tare and I expect to be able to get the same for the Next Cargo if it arrives soon, I have not yet hard [heard] whether Capt Putnam arrived at New York, I will make the Enquiry you mention of able [Able] James & Sons & write you the Result by next The Mill Stones with the Necessary apparatus will Come by the Schooner if she arrives

MrWill Blount wrote for an anchor of 3000^w to be sent to Cape Faire [Fear], there Could be no such anchor found in this Citey & for the want of Stone [2] Cole [coal] One Could not be made at Present There has Come in a Supply of that article, and as Soon as I have your arders to have one made I will set

the Smith aboute one, which will take 8 Days time & cost 10c
[sic] per pound, the Spikes, and all Your orders I will attend
to[.] Mrs. Barr is well & Joins me in her Compts to you I am

Gentlemen your most

Humb Sert

JA^s BARR

Messrs^s John G. & Tho Blount

P. S. excuse me as I have [scarce] amminute to write you in as I
did not Receve your Letter [until] only a few minutes ago J. B
Addressed: Messrs. John G & Thomas Blount

Mercht^s.

Washington N^o. Carolina

William Blount to James Barr

Copy*

NEW BERN Nov. 27th 1783

Dear Sir,

I have loaded a small schooner with two hundred and nine Barrells Pitch on account and Risque of John G & Thos. Blount, she is commanded by a Captain Freeman to whom you will please pay one Dollar per Barrell freight. The Pitch most of it is very good some of it rather too soft and some of it so lately burnt that it will not be quite full when it arrives at Philadelphia. Herewith you will receive a letter of the 17th Inst. from John G & Thos Blount directing what shall be sent back in Freeman's Vessel and the Application of the mony arising from the Sale of the Pitch. Since that letter was wrote I have been obliged at this place to promise Mr. Blackledge that I would direct you to pay on his acct to Kaigh and Attmore two hundred dollars [2] which you will please to do out of the Mony arising from the Sale of the Pitch and in all other Respects observe the Directions in the before mentioned letter.

For my Saw Mill I am in Want of 24 Iron Rounds (cast Iron) of the Size and form of a wooden one which the Bearer will deliver you, I shall be much obliged to you to procure them for me and send them by the first opportunity if possible by the Return of this vessel. I have engaged that you will not retain the

*This and the following are probably copies of letters mailed by Blount. He usually kept a duplicate of important letters.

Vessel longer than necessary to discharge her load nor has he engaged to bring back any freight only as you and he can agree.

Mr Thomlinson formerly Schoolmaster of this place addresses some Deerskins to you by my Advice.

I am etc.

W^m BLOUNT

To

Mr. James Barr.

(Copy)

William Blount to Messrs. Ramsay & Coxe

NEW BERN Nov^r. 27th 1783

Gentlemen,

I have here loaded a Small Schooner commanded by a Captain Freeman with 209 Barrells Pitch on account and Risque of John G & Thos. Blount Merchants of Washington (N^o Carolina) and have ordered her for Philadelphia but it is possible that the Delaware may be so closed as to prevent her getting there in that Case I have ordered that She shall come to New York and deliver the Pitch to you on the Receipt of which you will please pay one Dollar per Barrell freight, sell the Pitch for the most obtainable in Cash and remit it [to] Mr James Barr Merchant Philadelphia to be by him applied as by John G & Thos Blount directed.

I am &

W^m BLOUNT

Addressed: Messrs Ramsay & Coxe

Mercht

New York [3]

Mr Stanley recommended to me Ramsay & Coxe who he says are Whigs of Property that have just gone there from Philadelphia. Ramsay was a Resident of New York before the War and left it with the American Troops tho' a Scotchman Coxe is a Native of Philadelphia

Mr. Stanley gave me a letter to them in favour of John G. & Thos. Blount in which every thing was said that you could have wished and both that and the one wrote by me I directed Cap^t Freeman to put into the Post Office at Philadelphia in Case he should arrive there.

Taylor & Rogers I suspect are Refugees is the Reason I rather preferred Ramsey & Coxe I think Ramsey & Coxe may become useful Correspondents.—

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

27th Nov. 1783

Dear Sir,

Mr. Kelly will not take Lucy & her Children on any terms in consequence of which I send down Jake, Jerry & Miles to you—Col^o. Hart who hired Belinda has not yet sent her to me—I suppose she may be hired by description I have so much occasion for a boy that unless Jake goes very extravagantly high I must have him another year—his being already very well cloathed at my expence will be some Advantage to me Mr. Goodwin will give £4 for Miles & wants him much if he don't hire for more there you may venture to send him up with Jake again—the river rises I think you may send off the boat immediately if you [have] any Salt for me—Cotton Cards are in great demand No Tobacco comes down—& nothing capital can be done in the Pork way I believe at less than 26/8 in Silver or gold payable in June. I am this [2] day going to a Vendue where I shall offer it for a large quantity of good Pork together—Mr Kelley is nearly well & I believe may be had to go to Kentucky—I am much alarmed at the difference I have discovered by strictly comparing a number of Bills which I have rec^d. & such as I see daily circulating without being suspected, with a Sheet rec^d. of Cap^t. Colman immediately after he had [it?] from the Commissioners—incom[parison with] [?] that I have half a mind to refuse it altogether in future tho' I think it seems to gain Credit among the farmers—I recommend to you to examine what you have accurately & let me know your opinion of it. I suppose you have a good Sheet with which you can compare it—Pray write Mr Barr by Post to send me 8 or 10^{wt} at least of good Cut Tobacco for smoaking by the Richard All here are well, How dye you?

Yours

THO. BLOUNT

[3] Thursday night 27th Nov. 1783

I declined sending the negroes down today because of the coldness & wetness of the weather Jerry & Miles being but thinly clad. but they will start by daylight To-morrow morning—The river is in good order now for boats to pass & the great quantity of rain that fell today will probably keep it up long enough for your boat to get up with a [load of] Salt-Sugar & Coffee I must again mention to you—if you don't send up a Little of both Mrs. Hill will starve—if you hire Jake for me pray send him immediately back—if your boys Worst^d. Stockings are not all Sold send me four pair—

THO BLOUNT

Addressed: Mr John Gray Blount

Merch—

Washington

By Jake

Hugh Williamson to William Blount

ANNAPOLIS 28th Nov^r 1783

Dear Sir

On the 25th I arrived at this Place, we had adjourned to the 26th but have not yet made a Congress. Virginia alone being here. Yesterday the Delegates were chosen for this State. [Maryland] viz Ja^s McHenry, Coll: Lloyd, Mr [Edward] Thomas Stone & Mr [Samuel] Chase. Mr Stone who is a Lawyer is said to be a man of considerable abilities mental and Col. Loy'd of the first abilities pecuniary in the State. He appears also to be clever. I left Mr Spaight at Philad^a. & expect him here on Monday. The State House here is certainly an elegant Building. The Room we are to sit in is perhaps the prettyest in America. Be so good as give me a detail of assembly news. The accot. of western Lands in particular. As soon as I have settled at a private Loging, which I hope will be on to morrow I shall try to connect the Chain of occurrences which have lately been interrupted. I took a Seat from Princeton in the Carriage of an acquaintance and have not yet provided myself with Horses. Mr. Spaight tells me that he thinks a gelding of the first quality may be purchased near Halifax a [at] £15 to £50. If this is the Case and if such purchases are to be made with Paper Mony

I have thought of requesting a friend to buy for me a couple of good Horses viz for the Saddle & Port Mantua. By those means I should save 200 or more of my present hard Dls for which I foresee I shall have full use before the Spring. And I should come home by Water, or at least come as far as Suffolk or Portsmouth. However if I can save mony enough to buy Horses I shall buy them to the Northward and come Home on [2] on Horseback or by far the most elegable way. I wish to attend at the Spring Sitting of the Gen^l. Assembly. If I should be chosen a member so much the more convenient as in that Case I may be able in my Place to explain some measures that I have much at Heart.

From this distance you know that I may readily attend though I should leave Congress on the first of April. I am told that Mr. Nash has been so kind as write to the Assembly that he will attend Congress during the whole of the next year. He will doubtless keep his Word! You have heard of the pretty Mrs. Lloy'd. Her husband visited me to day. Perhaps I may visit his fair wife to morrow. This Place affords a multitude of fine women.⁹⁹ As we have ceased taking the Philad^a Papers you cannot in future expect any Communication of that sort till we are otherwise provided. However, I propose taking Claypools¹⁰⁰ for my private Acco^t if he will engage to furnish it regularly.

Be pleased present my Respects to Mrs Blount & be assured that I am

Dr Sr

with the utmost Consideration

Your obed^t Hble Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

William Blount Esqr.

Addressed William Blount Esqr.

Piney Grove Near Washington, N. C.

Free Hu Williamson

⁹⁹Williamson was unmarried at this time. See above, p. 61, n. 37.

¹⁰⁰*Mail*; or *Claypoole's Daily Advertiser* and *Baltimore Advertiser*, one of the popular newspapers of the time.

*John Coart to John Blount*KINGSTON Decembr. 4th 1783

Sir/

I send my Son [Cox Coart] Down to Live with you.¹⁰¹ and Shall Leve him to your Disercresson I Entend to Be at your House—At Christmas next; when, you and I will Determin, the time he Shall—be with you, My Compliments to M^{rs}. Blount, and Please Except of them your Self,

I am with Respect

Your Most Obedant

Sr.vent

JN COART

M^r. John Blount

Addressed: Capt. John Blount

Washington

Pr Cox

*Hugh Williamson to William Blount*ANNAPOLIS 5th Dec^r 1783D^r Sir

Mr Hawkins is arrived and talks of proceeding homeward in a fortnight by which Time we may expect 9 States to have ratifyd the definitive Treaty. It arrived yesterday with a large Packet from our Ministers Those Letters are to be opened & read to day. Hitherto we have no news.

The Accot^t given of the beauties of this City was not exaggerated. There really are several lovely girsls here, a younger man perhaps would call them Angels, and to their faces I believe I may have said as much; but when a mon commits it to Paper, more familiar Epithets may express his Ideas. In fact I have seen no women in Philad^a near so pretty. The Inhabitants promise much sociability. What do you think of Miss Allibone? If Tho^s. would not have her and Porterfield did not have her she did not for that reason break her Heart, but took to

¹⁰¹Cox Coart, who was to study navigation and shipping as an apprentice of the Blounts. He became highly valued by them and later commanded vessels to the West Indies.

herself young Sitgraves to comfort her. He I think is a student of Law, And eloped with her; not from her Parents but from his.

We continue in the usual Ignorance of what is going on in N Carolina. We have not even heard whether [2] whether you have made a House, if not I presume there is little chance of one before April.

I have the Honor to be

Dr Sr

Your obed^t hble Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

William Blount Esqr

Addressed: William Blount Esqr

Piney Grove near Washington

Free Hu Williamson

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

ANNAPOLIS 5th Dec^r. 1783

Dr Sir

Your favour of 22nd Nov^r. came to Hand this inst: Accounts concerning the depretiation of Paper are alarming. I hope that you will not keep a Shilling of mine in your Hand an Hour longer than is absolutely necessary. I do not wish nor expect that you should attempt to repay this Paper in hard Mony. Only vest it in Tobacco Pork or any other article not perishable which may be bought up immediately nearest to the proper hard mony value, and there keep them. Unless an opportunity offers of sending them to Philad^a or some hard mony market. I believe I can command as much Cash as will serve me till my Return to the State which I am resolved shall not be longer distant than April next. If it should be convenient to lodge 200 Dls in Philad^a or Balimor [Baltimore] it may possibly be needed but at any Rate I can do without it, having saleable Lands in Pennsylvania. one Tract of which I have already sold. At present the

only thing I am anxious about is that the Paper mony be immediately converted into some permanent property or Produce.

I have the Honor to be

Dr Sr

Your obed^t hble Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

Jn^o G. Blount Esq^r

Addressed: John G Blount Esqr

Washington N. C.

Free Hu Williamson

William Blount to John Gray Blount

PINEY GROVE Dec^r. 5th 83

Dear Sir,

I intended this day to Washington but laziness and unwillingness to leave Home has prevented me

read the letter to the Doctor [Hugh Williamson] seal & forward it and if it necessary for any thing to be said to or about Hawkins you must say it as Spaight's arrival is not certain it may be that he is there yet. I came from my fathers yesterday Morning and my Mother is no better and I fear never will be. 5 yards of Shuloon¹⁰² of the Sample you showed Molsy is here wanted which you will please [2] Send when Opportunity offers

Among the Papers I gave you at Pierces you will find a list of the Persons Names that I made Entries in. I wish you would send it to me by next Post if no Opportunity offers before. On Monday or Tuesday Week I purpose to set out for Wilmington & Georgia & have to attend the County Court next Week. I wish to see you before I go indeed I must and as I am so soon to leave home for so long a Time I can but illy take to Washington, Can't you once more take time to [3] visit Piney Grove on Sunday next but allow yourself time to stay 'till Tuesday Morning if you cannot come let me know by Post & I will come to Washington—You shall be furnished with the Tar Acct. as well as I

¹⁰²A woolen twilled fabric taking its name from Chalons, France.

can make it out. I wish you would read the Papers of the two past Weekes my friend Spencer I believe to be the Author of Atticus. I am &c &

W^m. BLOUNT

to

J. G. BLOUNT

[4] I want blue Cloth enough to make me a Coat & enough of the same to face it & a fashionable Button for it. I have wrote to Tom to send it down from Tarboro. to Washington—

James Barr to John Gray & Thomas Blount, Merchants

PHILDA 16th Dec^r 1783

Gentlemen

I have now the pleasure of acquainting you the Schooner Polley Capt Freeman arrived here on Friday Last after a passage of 6 Days, he has yesterday Landed his pitch, I have had as yet no offer for it I expect it will sell in a few days time The Barrells will want A good Deale of filling up which is hard on you when you pay Such a high freight, yesterday I paid M & D Dunkins Bill, I am extreamley sorry for the Misfortune that must have hapned to Capt Brown, as he has not arrived, & must be Lost. a few days ago M^r Turner Call^d on me to acquaint me he must pay a Bill which he indorsed, that day I had not money to help him, I hope your Brig will arrive, as soon as She Does I will dispatch her immediately & Raise money to Repay M^r Turner and in all things I will Strickley attend to your Instructions, the Letter of instructions which was to Come with Capt Brown I wish you had sent me a Copy of as I do no know how to act on the arrival of Capt Freeman I acquainted Able James & Sons, James Gave me answer he had three Ships then on the pointe of Saileing & Could attend to Nothing till the[y] were gone I shall endeavour to Detain this Schooner [2] a Day or two for your advantage that I may be able to get the Goods from M^r James, your mill Stones & Irons will Come by this Schooner, The Screw by the Next, I have Been Disappointed in Getting it as the maker Lives 26 Miles from this City, I will write you fully by the Schooner I am Gentlemen your Hu^l Ser^t

JA^s BARR

Mr J. G. & Tho Blount

P Currant

Pitch 25/Doll

Tarr .17/6 D^o

Turpentine 30 Quick

Deer Skins 2/3

Tob^a—60 £ 70 Bu^t Qu^a

Addressed: Messrs. John G & Thomas Blount Merchts

Washington

N Carolina

James Barr to William Blount

Philad^a 16 De^r 1783

Dear Sir

I have now acknowledge the Re^[c]^t. of your Sundry favours & in perticular yours by the Hon^a R^d D Spaight who Remained here for some time, I am much obliged to you for your Introduction of him, I have helped him to dispose of His indigo which was in a Bad State Being put up too wet, and upon Haveing it Dried, it Lost very Considerable, (*I know he will want money*) and if in your power, he would wish the Tare [Tar] should be sent forward, as I Got My Tar Bill discounted for the Money at 30^{dls}. & there will be a Considerable Deficientesy by the Loss of weight in the T[ar] I am sorry the Cargo of Tr [ar and pitch] Pit by Capt P[utnam] went to New York as I believe you have fell into Bad Hands, as the[y] Gave fer answer the[y] Had nothing for you the F—[reight] & Expenses took all, if she had Come to this place I could have Done Better than That for you, I am much obliged to you for your Recomending me to M^r F. T. [Tomlinson] I have re^d his Skins and have Been offered 2/3^d Per pound, any other Consignments you can through [throw] in my way (All the Care & attention I can give, Shall be used to Render acts Satisfactory) I am sorry the Pitch you Shiped Wants so much filling, wich [which] will be a Considerable expense [2[and you pay more fright [freight] than you have goods.

I will Carefully attend to any Instructions Mr Tomlinson orders, my Compliments to Mrs Blount I am Sir with Great Esteem

in Haste JA^s. BARR

Mr W^m Blount

Mr R^dD Spaight's Indigo was of the First Quality I ever seen that was made in either N. or South Carolina, if Such can be made to advantage with you, the Sale in this place would be amassing [amazing] to have if put up properly it Can Scarceley be Known from French

P Currant

J B

Pitch 25/ Dul [Dull]

Tare 17/6 D^o

Turpentine 35/ Quick

Flour Sup^r 45 PBls 196^d

Commen [common flour]—40 D^o D^o

Dry Goods—100 to 110 P C^t as in Demand

Dollars 11½ Adva Currant

Tob^a—60/ to 70 Best Quality

Addressed: William Blount

New Bern

North Carolina

G. Denisen to Messrs Blount & Blackledge

OC[RA] COK[E] 19th Dec^r. 1783

Dear Sir

I am just Going over The Bar¹⁰³ the wind Southardly & a fair Prospect for a good Passage [I] Got 19BB^{ls} Turpentine of Ben-nit & 4 BB^{ls} of Major Iris[.] Stoping for the Turpentine 2 Days just Lost me My Passeg in the Modorate Southerly weather that we had before So Long it Being Calm & flatoring & Haveing But one Ancher I thought Not Prudent to Go into the Sound To anchor But Stay till I Could Git a Breas to Carry me Down with-

¹⁰³He was taking a cargo in the brig *Richard* to New York. See James Barr to John Gray & Thomas Blount, December 23, 1783, below, p. 143.

out anchoring in the Sound which Happened on Sat^d the 12 I
Haven Lain Here Ever Senc & am your Most obedient Humble
Serv^t

G. DENISEN

I Had a very Hevy Bloo yesterday at N C that Drove one
Schooner a Shore

G D

Addressed: Messrs Blunt & Blackledge
Merchants Washington
Pr Mr Bayly

John Gray & Thomas Blount to Hugh Williamson
Copy*

Dec. 20th .83

D. Sir

Yours of the 5th In^t. came duly to hand & I observe you are
allarmed about the Paper Currency which we cannot say is
without cause but have a much more favourable opinion of it
than most People have[.] Goods as well as our produce [*sic*]
have rose in price very much since that came out which will in
the long run be the making the money of value. For foreigners
as well as the citizens of other States will shun a Country where
the only circulating Money is Paper And the report of produce
being so high they will no[t] bring Specie to purchase Cargoes.
if they did they must purchase to a disadvantage for very few
if any make any difference in the Money except in a private
[*sic*] manner We have sent our Brother Jacob to the N^o. Coun-
ties with your money with an expectation he can lay it out in
Staves & which at a price that we can afford to pay you the
Specie, should he fail in that we can lay it out in Naval Stores
at a price which we think will answer if the preference which
Spain gives us is of any advantage Mr. Ja^s. Smith of Baltimore
owes him by note odd of One Hundred Pounds We expect to be
able to pay that And forward you an Order on him perhaps
you will by the next Post hear from W^m. Blount on that Subject
We shall be happy in the continuence of your favours by Post

*Apparently a duplicate of this was mailed. See Hugh Williamson to John Gray and Thomas Blount, Merchants, Annapolis, 16th Feb 1784, below.

And if it should lay in your way to inform us the probable price Naval Stores will likely bear in Spain We are with much respect & esteem

Your most Obed^t. Hub St
J G & THO B

Can nothing be done by Congress to place us on a footing with the merch^{ts}. Subject of Great Briton with respect to the W. I. [West Indian] Trade must they send their vessels to our ports & purchase our Lumbr at their Own price & by that Means become the Carriers of 2-3^d. [two-thirds] our exports especialy of N^o. Carolina & our Merch starve or resign to become agents or factors for them At present they will not suffr our Vessels to sell afowl among^s them [2]¹⁰⁴

Mr. Barr

Sir

As our Letters either by Post or Vessell must have got to hand we only wrote now to inform you we have not yet heard anything of the Schooner Cap^t Brown[.] Naval Stores bid fair to be plenty & we have yet but very few Vessells therefore hope you will be able to charter one for the Voyage to Spain And should she not leave Phil^a. before [Letter ends here].

James Barr to John Gray & Thomas Blount, Merchants

PHILAD^a 23^d Dec^r 1783

Gentlemen

I have now to acknowledge your esteemed fav^r of the 2^d Instant, & your anexed of the 5th advising me of the Sailing of the Brig Richard Capt Denisin for this place or New York, I am Sorry to inform you I have not heard further from her[.] this morning I waited upon R. V. Ramsay one of the Gentlemen to whome she is address^d in Case she proceeds for New York, he has promised me in case she arrives he will advance me aboute 300 £ immediately which I will apply as you have desired me, as Capt Denison has not arrived here, I suppose he must have proceeded for New York, as soon as I heare of his arrival in Case the[y] do not Comply with ther'e present promise I will

¹⁰⁴The crown had ordered the ports of the British West Indies closed to American shippers. See Alice B. Keith, "Relaxations in the British Restrictions on the American Trade with the British West Indies, 1783-1802," *The Journal of Modern History*, XX (March, 1948), p. 2.

go to New york my Self to expedite the Vessell, & to have the money as soon to hand as Possible, as I know the Hardship which will Lie on Mr. T. [Turner?] where the payments is so pointed Misr [Messrs.] Dunkins put your Bill in the Bank which I paid

I am sorry I have it not in my power to advance for you, the Sums now Necessary, Being so Drained with fitting & Locadeing [loading] our New ship, if Capt Denison had ancred here it would have Been much Better for you, as I could have the Cordage & Salt in Case your money fell Short, and could have answered your Debts, as soon as the Brig arrived we have had no wether Before yesterday to Justify Capt Denison to proceed for New york only I know your Southern Cpts is worth But Little to go to the Northward, and from all appearance our River will not shut Before New years Day.¹⁰⁵ which is Seldom the Case Before that time, I Beleve able James & Sons have sent you Nearly all the articles your TB Left a memorandum for when here by the Schooner Felicity Capt Davis & Inclosed you have a 2^d Bill Ladeing for the Goods &c. [2] I obtained the goods from them with a good Deale of trouble as I was obliged to Call Sundry times for them, the[y] Being hurried with three new Ships and the[y] Could Scarcely attend to any thing—I am sorry I did not Recve your Letter Sooner, as on Saturday Last I sent Mr Thomlison a sum of money by the Schooner Felicity Capt Davis for New Bern which I would applied to your purpose and drawn on you for the amt which would have sooted Both Parties—this morning I will Call on all the Gentlemen mentioned in your memorandum & See if the[y] will either Renew the Notes or put of [off] the payment untill the moneys can be had oute of the Bgs [brig's] Cargo, if these Gentlemen Should not Render You Sattisfaction in Case you Should incline to send a nother Vessell to New York I will attend there as soon as I know of her arrivall and serve you to the utmost of my power, I can give you no encouragement [about?] a vessell to Locade [load] for Spaine as all the people here are fraid of your Swash, your Bootes & Shoes I will send by the first oppurtunity whether the Brig arrives or not, there is no account of Capt Brown & Suppose he must be Lost, I sent you by Capt Davis the mill Stones Mill Irons, half Ton Iron & Bridle for T. B. [Thomas Blount] with an acc^t of ther'e Cost which I hope may come Safe to hand he Sail^d from this on Satterday Last—I have as yet Been able

¹⁰⁵The river was usually frozen over for several weeks during the winter, and entrance to the city was very difficult, if not entirely prevented.

to Sell only 55 Bls of The Pitch I find it dull sale and am fearful that it will be some time Before I can dispose of the Remainder, Be ashured I will do my Best for your advantage, Prices Currant much the same as in my former

I am Gentlem your most Humble
Ser^t

JAMES BARR

Mess John G & Tho Blount

P S the Inshurance of your Ship will be 3 Pr C^t to the West Indies 1/2 Pr C^t from Philad to [each] Ileland [island] for as many as she will tutch at

Addressed: Messrs. John G. & Thomas Blount

Merchts.

Washington

North Carolina

1 Paire Mill Stones

Mill Irons

35 Bars Iron or half Ton

Shipped in good Order and well conditioned, by James Barr & for A James Jones

in and upon the good Schooner called the Felicity whereof is Master for this present voyage Anthoney Davis and now lying in the River Dellaware and bound for Washington or New Bern in North Carolina to say, One paire Mill Stones & Mill Irons one half Ton Iron and one Bridle & for able [Able] James & Sons Seven Bales and one Box of Merchantise on account & Resque of John G. & Tho^s. Blount of North Carolina—

Being marked and numbered as in the Margin, and are to be delivered in the like good Order and well conditioned, at the afore-said Port of Washington or New Bern—(the Danger of the Seas only excepted) unto John G. &

Thomas Blount—or to there Assigns, he or they paying F Freight for the said Goods as Customery—

with Primage and Average accustomed. In Witness whereof the Master or Purser of said Schooner has affirmed to Two Bills of Lading, all of this Tenor and Dare; the one of which Two Bills being accomplished, the other one to stand void.

Dated in Philad^a 19th Day of December

1783

Anthony Davis

[Marginal] J G & T B N^o1 to 8

*Richard Dobbs Spaight to William Blount*ANNAPOLIS Decem^r 26th. 1783

Dear Sir/

I wrote to you by the Sloop Industry, which sailed from Philadelphia on the 3^d. Inst.. I left that place two days after—Annapolis does not answer my expectations by any means[.] there are in it a number of elegant Private buildings but the Town is badly planned, & many of the Streets intersect each other in Accute Angles—Lodgings are difficult to be got. I have not as yet been able to procure any—General Washington arrived here on the 19th. Int. & was admitted to a public Audience on Tuesday last—for his Address to Congress &^c. see the inclosed paper—The definitive treaty is to be ratified & exchanged in six Months, four of which are nearly elapsed; the prospect of having Nine States in Congress in a short period is not verry great—I am affraid the British will have it in their power either to Accept or refuse the Treaty as they may think fit, for it don't appear to me probable that it will be ratified & exchanged in the time limitted—I have not heard from N^o. Carolina but once since I left it, & that letter [2] was dated only 7 or 8 days after my leaving New Bern—I have rec^d. no Acc^{ts}. of Howell's Sloop with the Tar, nor can I conceive what has detained her so long; should she not arrive in Philadelphia before the Winter sets in, I shall be in a disagreeable situation respecting my finances—If by any Accident which I am not aware of, that remittance should not come on, would it be convenient to you, to make the first payment at an earlier Period than that agreed on—Present my Comp^{ts}. to M^{rs}. Blount & M^{rs}. Granger—I am

Dr. Sir,

With Esteem

Your Ob^t. Sert^t.

R. D. SPAIGHT

W^m. Blount Esq^r.

Addressed: William Blount

Augustus Harvey¹⁰⁶ to John Gray Blount

TARBOROUGH 31st Dec^r. 1783

Dear Sir

I am now a going to inform you that I have desire to go down to Perquimons [County] the first of this Inst. if it is agreeable to you. I want to settle with everybody if I possibly can, the time is almost Expired, now Mr. Blount will you be so Obliging as give me your advice[.] I never wish to Live happier than I have since I have been with you, you are the only person I will ask for advice. if you will give it me, I never was at so great a Loss what to do. as I shall be when I am left Destitute of friends—as I shall be when I have to part from you, the favour Shall always be acknowledged. if you would be so Obliging as to write me Concerning my fate. I confess that I have not been so attentive to your business as I might. have been. for which I am verry sorry for but it shall not be the Case here after, if it is ever in my power.—I am confident I never shall be better Satisfied let me Live where I will than I have been and am now, I want to go to Perquimans about the week after Next[.] Mr. [Thomas?] Blount says he can Spare me as pork season will be over. I have no horse with out you or Mr. Blount will Lend me one but perhaps if you cannot Spare one I can borrow from him my Stay will be short. I am

Your M^o. Obdt. Serv^t.

AUGUSTUS HARVEY

P. S. I should be glad to see you if I could before I go Yours. A Harvey

¹⁰⁶Augustus Harvey, the half-brother of John Gray's wife, had been the ward of John Gray. See Daniel Earl to John Gray Blount, Bandon, March 15, 1783, above, p. 49.

LETTERS FOR 1784-1786

*Alexander Martin to William Blount*FAYETTE-VILLE 2^d Jan^y 1784

Sir,

I am very unhappy in not seeing you on the subject of Indian Goods¹ before I left Wilmington; I am anxious to know your prospects in getting them; for this purpose, Mr Scote the bearer hereof, waits on you, by him I hope you will write respecting the matter.

Tho the Year is far Spent, I flatter myself to hold the Treaty before the annual election; Therefore I [2] I hope you will excuse my being pressing in the business—I shall keep waggons in readiness to start, immediately on the first intimation of the arrival of the Goods.

I am Sir

Your most Obedient

Humble Servant

ALEX. MARTIN

William Blount esq^r.

Addressed: William Blount esquire
Piney Grove

William Blount to John Gray Blount

CHARLESTON Jany 6th 1783 [1784]

Dear Sir^s,

I arrived here in three Days from Wilmington (two days past) Whether I shall go to Georgia or not is uncertain as this State sets up a Claim to the very lands I want[,] the Bent,² and the Assembly is to meet to day here but a House will not prob'ally be made in less than ten days[.] by next Post I shall be able to Speak more fully on the subjick—As yet I have made [no?] advances towards purchasing Goods nor shall I unless I am offered them on good Terms there are many here very many and much Shiping—and I believe but little to load them—Before I left Wilmington I saw Mr. Mallett the Partner of Mr. Cruger

¹John Gray and Thomas Blount had been granted the state's contract to furnish goods for the Indian treaty. William Blount was interested in the whole matter and probably gave direction to the Blounts' action concerning the goods.

²He did continue his journey to Georgia to persuade the legislature there to give him a grant of the state's lands in the Muscle Shoals area.

on his Way to this place from Philadelphia where he is daily expected. I desired he would make Inquiry into the Characters [of] myself & Brothers before he [2] left Wilmington he told me that was quite unnecessary as he was sufficiently acquainted with them—When he arrives here I shall become better acquainted with him—I hope you persist in the Intention of Tom's going to Europe in the Spring—I find myself very politely treated here by all Sorts of People—On my Passage to this place I spoke the Ship Wilmington John Burguin & Cady on Board bound to Wilmington with ten thousand pounds sterling on Board in Goods—Goods at Wilmington are generally retailed at 4 for 1 many at 5 for 1—Mallett & Campbell bought the Cargoe of Capt. Waters at 30 P Cent advance Sterling upon Sterling to be paid principally in Turpentine at three dollars for Barrell delivered next fall at Wilmington, the Goods were purchased very badly & the Worst assortment I ever saw to the amount of 5000 pounds Sterling [3] Banks tells me he has sent on South's Note by Post in much haste I am &c

W^m. BLOUNT

Addressed: Mr. John Gray Blount
Merchant
Washington

Hugh Williamson to John Jay
Copy³

ANNAPOLIS 14th Jan^y 1784

Dear Sir:

Some months ago Congress rec^d. a letter from Mr Carmichael⁴ at Madrid in which he says. "The Contractors, for supplying the Army & Navy with Naval Stores have assured me that they would give a Preference to those from the United States" or words to this amount, for I quote from Memory. I have not been disposed to construe Declarations of this sort as any thing more than Words in Course or a Bait by which the article desired may be allured to market in greater plenty and Thence

³See Hugh Williamson to John Gray and Thomas Blount, Merchants, February 16, 1784, below, p. 150.

⁴William Carmichael of Maryland was a delegate to the Continental Congress, 1778-1780, and secretary of the legation during Jay's mission to Spain. James Grant and John Fiske, ed., *Appleton's Cyclopaedia of American Biography* (New York: D. Appleton and Co., 1888), I, 528.

become cheap. However that may have been' The State of N Carolina which I have the Honor to represent is greatly interested in this Subject and must be profited by every Arrangement that can be made for the regular disposal of naval Stores. We can furnish at least 130,000 Brls of Tar Pitch & Turpentine every Year and there are two or three Houses in the State who would undertake to diliver any number of Brls not exceeding that mentioned at any Port or Post which may be proposed. As Mr Carmichael has referd to the Trade of naval Stores in particular I have taken the Liberty to give you this general Information on the Head & have only to add that I am assured you will not on this nor any other Subject neglect one opportunity of serving the United States and each of them in the most effectual manner. I have the Honor to be &c

H W

Honble Jn^o. Jay Esq^r

Hugh Williamson to John Gray & Thomas Blount, Merchants

ANNAPOLIS 16th Feb^y 1784

Gentlemen

Your favour of 20th Dec^r came to hand by the last Post. Seven or Eight mails were missing, this we press to accot^t of the weather which has been severe beyond Example; two or three Cases excepted.

I have written to Mr. Jay by the Messenger who carry'd the difinition Treaty, & copy of the Letter is inclosed, your House was one of those referd to, I suppose I have not promised too much but admit that I believe the words of the Spanish Contractors were words & words only. With respect to the British West India Trade we now have measures in Hands for the Cure of those People. The States seem now disposed to impower Congress to regulate Trade. If we can get that Power our Trade & our Merchants must flourish. The new England States are most alarmed which is very fortunate. The English Kings Proclamation may be the means of saving us,⁵ So much have I this Business at Heart and so much do I wish to see it well finished that

⁵The crown had made three proclamations (July 2, September 5, and December 26, 1783) governing the conditions of trade between the British and the Americans. Alice B. Keith, "Relaxations in the British Restrictions on the American Trade with the British West Indies, 1783-1802," *The Journal of Modern History*, XX (March, 1948), 2.

I can hardly get my own Conccent to quit the Oar in this Place even though my private Interest points it out as my duty to come home.

For many Weeks I have written no Letters because no Posts sat out from this to the Southward & I have not written to your brother William because I had reason to suppose that he is to the [2] the Southward of Carolina. I have the Honor to be with the utmost Consideration

Gentlemen

Your obed^t hble Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

Mess^{rs} Jn^o Gray & Tho^s Blount

Addressed: Messrs. John G. & Thomas Blount

Merchts

Washington N C

Free Hu Williamson

*Casper Voght & Company to John Gray &
Thomas Blount, Merchants*

HAMBURGH Ye 20th. Feb^y. 1784

Mess^{rs}. John Gray [Blount] & C^o.

North, Caroline

Gentlemen,

We hear with great Pleasure from Mr. DeBoor that he hath the Honour of making Your Acquaintance for our House and found You Kindly desposed to agree the Tenders of our Services so as to intend the Direction of a little Cargo of Tobacco to our Care, which we shall be very glad to learn the Success of, mean While begging Leave to assure You of our utmost Endeavours for the good of Your Interest, as we, are in the most perfect Manner adapted to make the best Profit with that Article which continually maintains itself on advantageious Prises in our Quarters; best Virginia selling at 6 to 6½, good sound 5 to 5½, best Maryland 5, good sound 4 to [—] ½. We inclose a simulated Acct. Sales which will [serve] you justly to compare these Prices to Yours.⁶ please to observe that heigh coloured, long leaved sound Maryland and the heavy Virginia will allways answer infinitely better than the inferior which don't suit at all, because it

⁶See the comparative money values at the end of the market quotations, below, p. 156.

commonly spoils itself in the Voyage, and then looses 50 to 60 P Ct. by the Sale. We hope You will also try our Ministry in furnishing You with the Products of our Qua[rters], many of which, as we already learn't [2] learnt by Experience, will never fail, very well to turn out with You. Such we found to be principally our Linnens of all Kinds, our common Iron Wares, Bohemia Glass Wares, common Cloath and other Woollen Goods, together with some India Articles, all which our Place procures at an easier Rate as any in Europe. We intend, of all these Goods to send You particular Quotations reduced into American Measurement Weight and Money. We begin by inclosing such a Current of our Linnens, which indeed are the most material Article of Importation with You; at the Rates therein settled we offer to Deliver them on Board of the Vessel in an American Port, so that You have but to add the Transport into the Ware house and incoming Duty. The only Condition we require is that, as our Manufacturies give no Credit, we must likewise request our friends, to accompany their Orders either by Remittances or by a Credit upon good Europea[n] Houses for the Amount of their Commission, or what would still best be becoming, to make us Consignments of Goods, in Return of which we shall always to the whole Amount send such of ours as will be ordered. We are also ready, by Consignments only for Sale, to advance a holder [*sic*] Two Third Part of the Amount as soon as Bill Loading and Order for Insurance reaches us. One [3] One of our Vessels, Catherine Mary, Capⁿ. D. T. Rohlass will by this Time [be] at Baltimore [to] take her Cargo for here. Should You please to consign us some Goods; we beg You to apply to our Agent Mr. Charles Ghequiere at the said Place, who shall dispatch them by that Vessel at a most tolerable freight, and as we afterwards intend immediately to send her again to North America, this should be a very proper Ocasion promptly to return You such of our Productions as You might be pleased with.

We very sincerely repeat the Tenders of our Services and remain with a true Regard

Gentlemen.

Your most obed^t. Hble: Serv^{ts}.

CASPAR VOGHT & Co.

Addressed: Messrs John Gray & Compy
North Carolina

[4] Simulated Account Sales of 10 hh^{ds}. best Maryland Tobacco from Baltimore weighed— 11000 wt

Good weight	110 wt)		
Tara 80 to -	800.	) - - -	910
			<hr/>
			10090 wt
Refaction calculated at 15 wt phh			150
			<hr/>
			9940 wt
at 5 S. Current money		Crts	3106,4
			<hr/>
at 125 o/o		B ^s [Bancos]	2485.
the 150 wt are worth			7.8
			<hr/>
		BS	2492.8
Insurance of 2500 pol 5 o/o p	125.		
Freight 25. p hh. L	12.10	150.	
duty's about 2/ pevoo?		40.	
brokerage. Warehouse			
Workman at 6/phh		60.	
Commission 2½ pc		62.5	437.5
		<hr/>	<hr/>
at 7 p Ct L Maryland		BS	2055.3

Currency at large party 293.12
of Tobacco 696000 lb nt

[5] American weight received this year from Baltimore rendered here but 612000 lb net weight for the Same proportion These ten hhds Tobacco have weighed in American net.

11475lb thus this Sale will give pr 100 to 8½ Str.

thus it would produce 62¼ Str.

at 4/ d° 40¾

all expenses paid.

[6] Hambro price Current of German Linnen at the price which they will be sent freight and Insurance premium included to Philadelphia, Cheaspeak bay or Charles town by Caspar Voght & C and delivered there on board the Vessel without any further Charges

NB the length and broad the of the Linnen in Some kinds is not stricly observed therefore the price reduced per real Yard will bear an Augmentation of 5 pc

	English Yards long broad		Maryland price of y piece		Currency price P Yard	
Plalelles Royales or white Silesias	35	15/16				
Common Quality .			49	to 54	17 5/6	to 19 2/7
fine			56.2	. 63.6	20 1/5	. 22 5/7
Superfine			66.1	. 78.3	23 3/4	. 28 1/6
Cholets or brown Silesias	35	15/16				
Common			39.1	. 43.9	14 1/16	. 15 5/7
fine			46.8	. 49.	16 1/2	. 17.5/6
Very best			51.3	. 61.	18 3/7	. 22
Britanias	7	15/16				
Common			9.9	. 11.5	17 4/7	. 20 6/7
fine			11.10	. 13	21 3/7	. 23 3/7
Very best			13.	. 14.8	23 3/7	. 26 3/7
[7]						
	English Yards long broad		Maryland price of y piece		Currency price P Yard	
Britanias	7	35/32	18.	to 24.6	32 3/7	. 44 1/7
Sleek'd Dowlass or Creas 6/4 Ells	67 1/2	15/16				
Good Common ...			102.8	to 107.6	19 3/16	to 20 1/32
better			107.6	. 117.1	20 1/32	. 21 5/6
Very best			117.1	. 122	21 5/6	. 22 3/4
Creas of 5 1/2/4 Ells..	do	55/64				
Good Common ...			80.6	. 85.5	15.	16
better			85.5	. 92.10	16.	17 1/3
Very best			92.10	. 97.8	17.1/3	. 18 1/4
Creas of 9/8 Ells.....	do	45/64	78.3	.	14 4/7	
Rouanes	50	5/4				
Common Quality .			73.3	. 97.8	18 1/2	. 24 3/5
Good			97.8	. 112.3	24 3/5	. 28 1/4
best			112.3	. 127.	28 1/4	. 32
Osnabruggs flaxen Linnen		35/32				
Common Quality p	125yd		52.7	. 97.8	5 3/5	. 9 1/5
Good			107.6	. 127	10 8/16	. 12 1/5
best			136.9	. 166.1	13 1/6	. 16
Teklenburgs hempen Linnen		25/32				
Common p 125 Yd.			87.10	. 107.6	8 2/9	. 10 9/16
Good			117.1	. 146.7	11 6/25	. 14 1/16
best			146.7	. 176	14 1/16	. 16 4/5
Ravendocks	33	85/64	78.1	. 91.3	22 1/8	. 22 4/5
[8]						

	English Yards long broad		Maryland price of y piece		Currency price P Yard	
Russia Sheetings or Vlams	25	5/6	101.8	. 103.2	51 1/5	. 52
Russia sail Cloth black mark	37 1/2	55/64	67.8	to 83.5	22 4/5	. 26 2/16
blue mark			86.8	. 114.6	28 7/8	. 38 3/8
Sack Cloth	35	79/66	19.6	. 29.3	7	. 10 5/8
Sack Cloth	47 1/2	69/64	32.7	. 8	8 7/10	
Stripes or Libretos ...	43 1/8	28/32	53.8	. 78.1	13 3/4	. 22 13/16
Sailors Linnen	35	59/66	35.9	. 45.7	12 6/7	. 16 2/5
Estopillas or Lawns ..	8 1/8	15/16				
plain			21.21	. 32.6	32 6/5	. 50 2/5
NB they may be had in pieces of 35 Yards call'd the long lawns						
Clear			24.5	. 32.6	37 7/8	. 50 2/5
Gel with Stripes and Squares			29.4	. 48.10	45 1/2	. 75 3/8
Handershiefs of 15/16	35/32	15/16				
to dozen from ...			13	to 68.6	13	to 68 1/2
Hollands or Wharendorps	34 3/8	15/16	84.7	. 260.4	30 1/3	. 95 3/8
Sailors Shirts Checked from			3.9	to 6.		
White			7.			
Trowsers			4.3			
Wrapping	35	15/32	29.4	. 44	10 4/7	. 15 5/6

[9]

	English Yards long broad		Maryland price of y piece		Currency price P Yard	
Bedticking B	35	55/32	67.8.		24 1/3	
C		13/16	78.1		28 1/8	
F			109.4		29 1/3	
Diaper table Cloth....	11 7/8	15/16	33.6		35 5/8	
Diaper table Cloth....	11 7/8	25/52	21		22 1/4	
Diaper table Cloth	29/16	25/16	11.9.		15.7	
Assortiments with 1 doz. Napkins						
the Cloth	3 1/3	2 3/16	46.11			
the Cloth	3 3/4	2 1/2	79.6			
better			101.8			
Do. with 1½ doz.						
Napkins	5	2 1/2	148.6			
Russian Diaper abt....	60	15/32			9 4/5	
" " 	156	5/8		13	13 2/5	
" " 	23	5/8			26 4/5	

<p>Please to observe that 100 p banco our bank money are equal to 125 p Curt. of our Currency that 12½ p 6^{bo} [banco] are ab^t. equal to 1 Lstr [£ str] that 7 p^{bo} art ab^t. equal to 1 £ Mary- land Currency that 1 p of our money has 16 Shillings of our Money</p>	<p>that 48 hambro Ells are equal to 30 English Yards that 100 to America weight are more or less 90 to hambro Weight</p>
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William Blount to [Joseph Martin]⁷
[Copy]*

[CHARLESTON, March 9, 1784]

Dear Sir,

Herewith you will receive a Copy of my Petition presented by me to the State of Georgia in Behalf of the Tenessee Co and the Resolutions taken by that honorable Body therein⁸—The Petition I hope will meet your Approbation—The Resolutions are as good as I could get passed and with much dificulty and attention I got them passed[.] a Majority of The Commissioners from Georgia are as well disposed (I belive) to the Interest of the Company as I could wish them, they *themselves* have a thirst for a Piece of the Tenessee land also—The Commissioners in the State of N^o. Carolina were nominated by myself in the fullest Confidence that each of them will act for all depends on a Majority [2] of the Commissioners being in the Co's Intrest—You will observe by the Resolutions that they have power to *make* the Company such Compensation as may be adequate and Satisfactory—A strong Reason why neither must fail in any Pretext whatever—What will most readily influence the Georgia Commissioners to grant a large quantity of Acres will be an appear-

*This was either an unmailed letter or a copy of the one sent.

⁷For a sketch of Joseph Martin, see above, p. 63, n. 38 (1783).

⁸The Georgia legislature recognized the desirability of settling the area on the south bank of the Tennessee River and recommended the appointment of seven commissioners to be vested with the authority to determine the amount and quality of the land and other pertinent matters—and that they should report their findings to the legislature. At the same time the commissioners were authorized to issue grants of not more than 1,000 acres each, under terms agreeable to the laws of the state. Credit was to be allowed when the applicant gave bond and security to pay the state treasury one-eighth dollar per acre, prior to the issuance of the grant. The House of Representatives chose Lachlin McIntosh, Jr., and John Morrell (sometimes referred to as John Morse). Allen Candler, compiler, *The Revolutionary Records of Georgia* (Atlanta: The Franklin Turner Company, 1908), III 492, 595.

ance of many People being about to go immediately to that Country to settle therefore you will necessarily keep up a Report of as many being about to go as you possibly can whether true or not for my Part I really intend moving out there to live and I have no doubt but I shall be able to bring with [me] at least fifty Families. I want much to go out with you to explore the Coun-[3]try which I can't do but I hope to be able to meet you in June at the long Island of Holston tho' before that I expect the pleasure of seeing you at Hillsbro—You will observe the Commissioners have power to appoint Militia Officers If the Commissioners of N^o. Carolina have no Objection I should like to be appointed Colonel those of Georgia have already given their Voice in my favour and will bring up the Commission for me and I suppose blanks for other Officers—You will see I have made. Use of Bledsoes⁹ Name altho he never signed the Articles my Reason for so doing was because he was Known to be an over mountain Man [4] of much Interest consequently in the Eyes of the Assembly[.]Georgia gave Way to the Petitioners—You must mention this circumstance to him—Downes and Herd I believe are know[n] to you and I believe will on all occasions be with you in Sentiment the other two are Young men who I really think be well disposed also but if they are not Mery is easily managed—M^c. Intosh is a sensible young Man—I am with much Esteem

Your most Obt
Humble Servant
W^m. BLOUNT

L[eonard] Dessaux¹⁰ to John Gray Blount

BATH April ye. 8th. 1784

John Blount Esqr)
)
Mercht. Washington)
Sir

As you are one of the members for the County of Beaufort and Consequently will go to the Assembly Therefor would beg the favour of you by assisting in passing a Bill to have the tor-

⁹Colonel Anthony Bledsoe, prominent in the Tennessee area.

¹⁰See *State Records of North Carolina*, XVI, 220.

ris [Tories] banished out of the County of Hide that took my gally, they lay under such predicamint as they are liable so, to, be, Collonel John's and Coll^o. Hiborn who are members for the County of Hide afore Said will be able to give you a full Description of there [their] ill Behavier, and as I know you to be a well wisher to your Country who Dispises the Idea of even Countenancing such Vilens, Should take it as a great favour if you would assist as well as your friends in the house to have an act passed to prosecute those fellows, so as they may be sent out of the Country as they are a Lawless set of People and alwes have been, therefore it would sarve the Country at large to get rid of such animals I make no Doubt but youl use your outmost e[n]deavers to have the Said Act passed if possible[.] I likewise Shall beg the favour of you of your interest to have a bill passed to make a road, from mattemuskett to Curretucke which will be very servicable Boath to the merchant as well as the farmer no road Can be more a wanting for [the] good of the Community as that, it would serve meny good purpose particularly to me, I need not enlarge on the subject as you may be sensible of the propriety of my request therefore all services you may render on the occasion Shall be greatly acknowledged by

Your Very obedient

& Humble Servant

L DESSAUX

Sir

N: B: I gave Coll^o hiborn a few Days ago, a memorandum for the Busines above mentioed/ a few Days ago I went to Currituck in Order to have a pice [piece] of Land lade out by a surveyer but five of the Villins Came with Clubs and Axes—thretned me of my life if I did not Depart instantly they being a Superior force made me Comply with there unlawful request &c^o—[2] if the Laws of the Country are to be thus trampled under feet we shall be a very unhappy Set of People but I hope a Speedy stop will be put to these iligal prosecutions I macke no Doubt but youl use your Outmost influence to have the Villins Suppressed for—which I shall think myself in Duty bound to Acknowledge the favours &c—

Addressed: John Blount Esq^r

Washington

Favor pr. Captⁿ Alderson [sic]

*Richard Dobbs Spaight to John Gray Blount*ANNAPOLIS 8th. April 1784

Dear Sir/

I am extremely sorry to hear, of your bad success in navigation during the Winter—I observed under the New York head that Dennison had arrived there in a Brig which I supposed belonged to your Company, but have not heard any thing of the Vessel you mention to be missing—the severity of the winter, surpassed any thing I ever remember to have seen—the Acc^{ts}. from the northward mention that the shipping have suffered very much on that coast—The letter you sent to me for Doctor Middleton, I enclosed to him by the return of the same post, to Alexandria, requesting him to give me an Answer immediately & inform me if he would accept & pay Doctor Loomiss's¹¹ draft on him—Upon further inquiry I found there was a private post, which went, within two miles of his fathers house, with whom he lived—least the letter I wrote him by Alexandria should not get to his hands soon I wrote to him by that post to the same purpose—

In consequence of my last letter he came to town on saturday last—I met him at the Tavern—he told me he had not rec^d. Doctor Loomiss's letter, which I sent to Alexandria, that my letter informed him of his having drawn a Bill upon him, but that he could not possibly Accept it, and become liable for the debt—he said the money was due [2] due from two Gentlemen, one of whom lived near, but was out of Cash, the other at some distance, & he did not know whether he could pay or not—he was then proceeding to tell me how the Debt was contracted; I told him it was foreign from the Subject, all I wanted was to know whether he would accept & pay the draft—he again told me he would not—accept it & be liable for the Debt, but if he could collect the money he would pay it to me—he said he would go to Alexandria to get Doc^r. Loomiss's letter, would answer it & enclose it to me, to forward; it has not yet come to hand; I shall not seal this letter till Just before the post goes out that I may send his letter if it comes—I must now beg leave to call your Attention to my situation which is truly distressing, I brought with me from Carolina in cash & indigo about 500 Dol-

¹¹Dr. Jonathan Loomis of Edgecombe County was a well-known physician in North Carolina. He was a surgeon in the Continental Line during the American Revolution. He was the family physician of the Blounts, especially Thomas Blount's family, and is mentioned a number of times in the John Gray Blount Papers.

lars—My Expenses have far exceeded that sum, of course I am very much behind hand in paying the different debts which I owe—to add to my mortification I rec^d. about three weeks ago from N^o. Carolina some paymaster bills which were in payment for two hundred bls of Tar, I had purchased & paid for before I came away, and were to have been shipped in October last, for Philadelphia for me; but Mr. Hawks seeing no prospect of the Tar being shipped to me agreed to Sell it for these bills at 2/. less pr. ble [barrel] than I gave for [3] it—two of the bills amounting to near ninety Doll^s. I disposed of here for Cash, and inclosed the others to Mr. Barr to get the money for—The two I disposed of were sent back by the return of the post, for non Acceptance there being no money in the Treasury—having paid away the money I rec^d. for them I found myself very much embarrassed, & was obliged to borrow the money to take them up—As I have not the least expectation of receiving any money for the bill on Doctor Middleton—I have no hopes of relief from my disagreeable situation/ unless I get Cash for the paymasters bills/ untill you forward me a Bill on Baltimore or Philadelphia, which I request you would do as soon as possible, for the whole am^t. if convenient, but at least for one half—The members talk of adjourning Congress by the middle or end of May; at which time I expect to return home/ unless the Acc^t. I may receive from your Brother, to whom I have wrote on the subject, respecting some particulars, should be different from what I expect/—I have at present no horses, they are scarce & high priced at this place—I wish to purchase them some time before I set of [off] for Carolina, indeed I find myself at a great loss for want of them at present, to take the necessary exercise—If I am obliged to buy them on an emergency, I shall not only be obliged [to] take any horses, but give a much higher price for them—[4] I have not enclosed Doctor Loomiss's Draft on Doctor B. Middleton, I shall keep it till I hear from you, perhaps he may collect the money & pay it before Congress adjourn—however you will give me such directions as you may think proper—Present my Compliments to M^{rs}, Blount & Your Brother Tom, if at Washington—

I am

Dear Sir/

With Respect & Esteem

Your most Ob^t. Hum: Sert.

RICH^d. D. SPAIGHT—

N.B. you will please give me an answer, as soon as possible it is absolutely requisite that I should have bills for the 800 D°. at farthest by the 10th. or 12th. of May—otherwise I shall be detained here longer than I wish or is necessary—
Mr. John G. Blount Esqr.

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

ANNAPOLIS 9th April 1784

Dear Sir

Your favour of 20th March came to hand by this days Post. I wrote you by the last that Mr Smith does not propose paying the Note, giving for Reason that Mr Blount has accepted an Order on Banks or Hunter Banks & Co for Tobacco to the Amo^t. which order is not returned & that Banks has charged him with the Tobacco. I rec^d. nothing less than I expected on that Note, hence I was not disappointed. I think I have Cash Enough to serve me till the Time when I expect to return to the State and therefore would not wish that you should put yourself to the smallest Inconvenience in making Remittances. At any Rate if I should have occasion for more mony and should give you Notice of the same, I hope you will not by any means send me any public Bills, or Bills on our Treasury. While in a public Office I do not wish to touch one of them lest, if mony is scarce in the Treasury, which is generally the Case, some Body should complain, if I was paid, that partiality was used. If I should chance to need any Mony I can borrow it in Philad^a & the Remittances can be made thither to repay it with sufficient Ease. The Time of my present Delegation expires within 5 Weeks or thereabouts viz on the 13th of [2] of May. If the State should honor me with another appointm^t. It is not probable that I shall continue longer than to the End of May at which Time I expect that Congress will adjourn.

If you have vested any of my Cash or rather Paper in Rum to prevent depretiation I hope you will not leave the Acco^t. open to be at my Choice which I shall Take the Rum or the Mony. If you can afford to pay Mony to be paid at any Time in Philad. I certainly would prefer it. Therefore you may take the Rum or other Articles to your own Acco^t, on the Condition that you

are not in danger of loosing by it. You will be pleased to make the Entry on your Books accordingly. Since my last we have not a single Sylable of News, I have the Honor to be with the utmost Regard

D^rS^r

Your obed^t. hble Serv^t.

HU WILLIAMSON

Jn^o. G. Blount Esqr.

Addressed: Jno. G. Blount Esqr.

Hillsbro

Hu Williamson

*William Blount to Arnold Delius*¹²

Copy

NEW BERN April 10th 1784

Dear Sir^s.

On our Journey from Charleston, speaking on the Subject of Trade you observed that the Merchants of Bremen would supply the American Merchants with Goods on Credit as readily as the English Merchants did if they were allowed the Same Commission namely five per Cent. for purchasing and shiping and Interest on the Debt till paid.—As I have repeatedly told you, I intend by November next to be living in Wilmington when and where I expect a general Assortment of Goods from England.¹³ But upon looking over the Advertisement of the Goods put into the Hands of your Friend in Philadelphia I think many of the Articles would suit this Country and bear a handsome Profit and herewith you have a List of such Goods as I would wish to make the Experiment with provided you will ship them on my Account on the before-mentioned Terms so as for them to arrive at Wilmington or Charleston by or before the first of February next and make Insurance on them at Bremen. If shiped for Charleston you will consequently ship them to the Care of [2] Your Friend Mr. Bourdeaux but I would prefer having them Shiped to Wilmington in a Vessel of your's that I might have an Opportunity of loading her on your Account with Naval Stores

¹²Delius was a mercantile agent from Bremen, Germany, who was seeking to promote trade between Bremen and the United States. This was either a copy or an unmailed letter.

¹³It is questionable whether Blount was concerned about moving to Wilmington. He may have had in mind a business association with the Mallets. Just about a month earlier he had written, "I really intend moving out there [to the Tennessee area] to live . . ." William Blount to [Joseph Martin] [Copy], [Charleston, March 9, 1784], above, pp. 156-157.

namely Pitch, Tar and Turpentine in part pay for the Goods.—It may be objected that the Goods are too few to send a Vessel with to Wilmington in reply to which I say if you should find a greater Amount on your own Account that it is my Opinion that I can dispose of them for you to advantage—I would not wish a Vessel coming to Wilmington to be above two hundred Tons Burthen nor under one hundred and fifty Tons and a Vessel of that Burthen can at any time in the Fall and Winter Season be loaded in thirty five days with naval stores and if proper Notice is given of the Time when she may be expected in much less.—The Assembly of this State which is about to set will certainly pass an Inspection Law by which every Person making Pitch, Tar and Turpentine will be obliged to put it in good tight Barrells made of seasoned Timber that will each hold about thirty Gallons—[3] From Wilmington before the War I believe more Pitch, Tar & Turpentine was shipped than from all America beside and it will again be the Case in a few years, that is as soon as the People can recover from the Damage they have sustained by the War—Wilmington you Know is situated on Cape-Fear River about Twenty Miles from the Sea and the Bar or Entrance into Cape-Fear River I assure you upon my Word is better than that of Charleston.—I have lately crossed both—I think I can venture to assure you that after November 1785 I can ship in any Fall and Winter ten thousand Barrels of Naval Stores in Payment for which Bills on almost any Part of Europe would be very acceptable or the Goods that might be shipped from Bremen could be received in Payment—Should you ever send a Vessel to Wilmington I wish you to send two Barrels of Tar and two of Pitch of the best quality at the Bremin Markett by way of a Sample to our Tar and Pitch Makers—You informed me that you had a Friend at Lisbon and another at Cadiz you will much oblige me by giving me their Names [4] and by giving them mine and Place of Residence and by requesting them to write me frequently by way of Philadelphia or Baltimore and inform me the Prices current of every kind of Merchandize at their Marketts particularly of Pitch Tar, Turpentine, Rosin & the Spirit of Turpentine I should also be glad to be Known to your Friends in Bremen and to be favoured with the Prices current of Pitch, Tar, Turpentine and Rosin at that Markett—Your Goodness I am sure will excuse this Trouble and I shall be glad to render you similar Services

You will much oblige me by favoring me with an answer as soon as convenient which you will please commit to the Care of my Friends Stewart & Barr who will have the pleasure to deliver you this—Permit me Sir to assure you of my best Wishes and to subscribe myself with much Esteem,

Your most Ob^t.

Humble Serv^t

WILLIAM BLOUNT

Mr. Arnold Delius
of Bremen
at Philadelphia

Tyler & Mumford to John Gray & Thomas Blount, Merchants

KINGSTON April 10th. 1784

Mess^{rs}. John Gray &)
Thomas Blount)

Sirs,—

We had the happiness to receive your Several polite favors, through the Introduction of Our friends Mess^s Malletts & Mumfords, and Consider Ourselves much Obliged for so agreeable a Connection, our whole study is to please, and our constant Custom Dispatch—times are much alter'd since we wrote them on that Subject, and much difficulty attends the Stripes of America—¹⁴

The article of Tobacco amounts in duty to a Prohibition, and as to the quantity, One Cask if not Enter'd is Sufficient to Condemn Ship and Cargo, However we have always so good an understanding with all the Officers of the Revenue, that no trouble ever await us on that Score, but Sirs as you are pleased to Compliment us on that Head, Rest assur'd you shall always be safe, from our—Natural inclination, as well being prompt by Interest—

We note what you say respecting the return'd Cargo, and every thing shall be Comformable thereto,—Be assured as your

¹⁴Smuggling by the Americans was very common. They had little difficulty in escaping the officers because of the eagerness of the West Indians to obtain American goods, which suited their needs both as to price and character, and the willingness of the merchants to aid and abet them. See Alice Barnwell Keith, "John Gray and Thomas Blount, Merchants, 1783-1800," *The North Carolina Historical Review*, XXV (April, 1948), p. 194 ff.

Brother Jacob Blount is on the Spot he shall be made acquainted with every matter, and we will do, as he wishes for your Interest, particularly—respecting a British Register &^{ca}. thus much to inform you we shall comply with every request of your Brother who we consider a [2] a prudent careful Man, as also Capt^t Williams who is Worthy of trust But where the Capt^t of the Schooner Polly came from we are at a loss to guess—a Plan was fram'd by the Custom house and us to bring his Cargo to Kingston under French Colours, he was made acquainted with every Circumstance, and came into Port Royal, where he was boarded by Men of War, he was ask'd from whence he came, he said from L Domingo, he then was asked for his papers and he shew'd them his American Papers, She [the vessel] was instantly Seized by the Flag Ship afterward by the Customhouse, which gave us no little Trouble to get through the whole of their Difficultys, however by our Close application a Small expence We surmounted the whole & sent him to an Out Post, where he deliver'd his Cargo Safe, rec^d. his money & Sailed[.] more of this by your Brig. we must not omit to tell you Mr Blackledge¹⁵ never did us the Honor of a call, your Brig leaves this in 3 days by her We Shall write you fully.—

In interim we are with much Esteem.

Your Obliged hum^l. Serv^{ts}.

TYLER & MUMFORD

Addressed: John Gray & Tho^s. Blount

Merch^s

N^o Carolina

William Blount to John Gray Blount

April 21th 1784

The Bearer Jack comes for your grey Horse and brings three Bags of Corn I wish you would weigh him and inform me of his weight that I may Know whether to send him to Tom or not and inform Tom of his Weight that he may Know whether to expect him or not. I have no Steelyards—Let me Know by his Return if you can spare a Barrell of Flour—Jn^o. Allen says before you return some Mill Saw Files will be wanting and none

¹⁵Probably Benjamin Blackledge, who was in the employment of the Blounts. He was a younger brother of Richard Blackledge, mentioned many times in the Blount Papers.

can be had at New Bern—Dont forget the sending of the Mony to Read I wrote him that you would send it by Blackledges Express to Charleston who I supposed would set out on Thursday next and since I find he goes by Water—One of my Oxen died Yesterday more must be had. Tom Blount says old Harden who he believes owes you has some five Steers to make Oxen of I have directed him to purchase 1 or 2 Yoke of him & to draw on you for Payment. Billy Grainger says Howell has taken about 60 or 70 Barrells of Tar and will have no more of it. Had you not best give him Instructions as to the Disposal of the rest of it. I must draw on him for the Mony to take with me to the Assembly—The letter addressed to Mr. Mallett please forward by Capt. Dennison [2] if he has not sail'd but if he has forward it to Philadelphia—The one to Scarbrough give to M^cCalve—If you have not already wrote Spaight on the Subject of Salary I wish you would by this Post—I shall certainly set [out] on Wednesday. when do you expect to arrive at Hillsborough—I am &^c

W^m. BLOUNT

to

J. G. BLOUNT

Addressed: Mr. John Gray Blount

Washington

By Jack

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

ANNAPOLIS 21st May 1784

Dear Sir

The last Post brought me a new Commission by which it appears that it will be my Duty to continue in Congress till the adjournment. That Event is fixed for the 3rd of June, perhaps we may put it off to the 15th. I presume the State does not expect nor wish that I should continue on the Committee During the Recess of Congress. I propose therefore to return to N Carolina soon after Congress shall adjourn. I fear that I shall be short of mony. I wish you could make it convenient to lodge 3 or 400 Dhrs in the Hands of Miles Hillbourne of Philad^a. for my Use, Though it should not arrive before I set out, if I have occasion to borrow the mony I can give him conditional Orders

to repay it. Should I fall into the Hands of those Jews, paying as both Mr Nash & Mr Hawkins did for some Time an Interest of 5 P Ct Every month, the sooner I can pay the Debt the better. My Expences have lately been more than I had counted on. The Payment of the Note due by Smith would have established my Independence for the season; but of this Mony there is not the most distant Hope.

By a Vessel just arrived from England reports are rec^d. that after the Parliam^t of England had been dissolved on the new Election Mr. Pitts Party were very successful and that Mr Fox was in danger of losing his Election for Westminster. That [2] That a new political Phenomenon had appear'd. The Dutches of Devonshire¹⁶ had personally appear'd on the Hustings or Stage and solicited Votes for Fox. The Pitt administration if Established will greatly promote our Plans of mercantile Treaties.

I am with the utmost Consideration

Dr Sir

Your obed^t Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

Jn^o. G. Blount Esq^r:

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r.

Washington

Free Hu Williamson

*William Blount to John Donelson, Joseph Martin,
and John Sevier
Copy**

HILLSBOROUGH May 31st. 1784

Gentlemen,

Inclosed you have a letter wrote me by Doc^r. Williamson that Part which respects the Menonists wishing to purchase land you will plase Shew to your Brother Commissioners of the State of Georgia, but do not permit them to take a Copy of it if you can avoid it tho' you must not give for Reason that I am unwilling When next you see me return it.—You will also find inclosed a letter directed to those Gentlemen which you will plase

*This was probably a rough draft of the letter which Blount sent.

¹⁶This was one of the most hotly contested elections of England. The polls were kept open for forty days and a number of women took part in the campaign. The beautiful duchess "is said to have bought a butcher's vote with a kiss." William Hunt and Reginald Poole, eds., *The Political History of England* (12 vols. London: Longmans, Green, and Co.), X (1905), 283.

read Seal and deliver—You will see that the Company here for the letter is written by the Approbation of the Company who are here think it best to admit the whole of them as joint Adventurers with the Original Company which I hope will be perfectly agreeable to you. Should the Report of Indians or any other Circumstance prevent the Exploring the Bent I hope you will so manage the Business as not to let them return without [2] executing a Grant to the Company as large as you can obtain—If you can't get a Grant for the whole get it for as much as you possibly can—If you find the Assembly of Georgia will set after the Return of the Commissioners before next Spring some one of you must attend it in Behalf of the Company in Order to assist the Companys Agents viz Majors Call and Long to compleat the Business as advantageously as possible. If you should think proper to open the offer to grant Warrants at $1/8$ of a dollar per Acre enter as much as you can and make use of any Names fictitious one will do I suppose, If not you may use the Names of Blount, Williams Johnson Allen, Winnan, Ogden and almost any other Name you please adding such Christian Names to them as You please and You need not fear but I can find the People to transfer their Rights to the Company.

[3] You must not fail to impress on the Minds of your Brother Commissioners the Value of western lands to individuals and the little Advantage it will be to the State of Georgia. and may offer as a Reason for both the Cessions that have taken place in this State and Virginia and that will certainly and unavoidably take Place in Georgia in a Short Time.. May it not be good Policy [to] Set some new Scheme on foot in Partnership with the Gentlemen of Georgia to make further Purchases over the Tenessee or on the Mississippi in down near the Natches for they must if possible be fixed with a thirst for back lands to effect which no Pains must be spared—Western lands since the Session are here estimated at 20/ per Acre—

There is at Nash Ville—Col. Daniel Smith¹⁷ of whom I have heard a very high Charactor and a great Mathematicien if possible I wish you could get him to assist in running the line the Company will pay him and if he does go with you I would wish

¹⁷General Daniel Smith was born in Staffordshire, Virginia, in 1748. He was active in frontier conflicts and in Dunmore's War. He served as deputy surveyor at Augusta in 1773. After the Revolution he moved to the Cumberland area and was later appointed secretary of the Territory South of the River Ohio (1790-1796), brigadier general of the District of Miro, and was United States Senator from Tennessee (1798-1799, 1805-1809). Draper Manuscripts (McClung Collection, Lawson-McGhee Library, Knoxville), IV (1925), XX42, p. 12.

him to report to the Assembly of North Carolina his opinion with respect to the precissun with which he thinks it is run—and it ought to be run as exact as possible to prevent future [4]Disputes—Particlar [*sic*] Instrution is unnessary you know the Grand Object is to get as much land as possible and how that is to be accomplished you will be best able to judge who are on the Place of Action but let no trifling Expende disappoint as in the Main Object—If your brother Commissioners should construe the Word *accepting* into an Intention of the Company to give gratis a joint part be it so, or if they purpose to pay a Proportionable Part of the Expenses they may [pay] it at their leisure—You will observe to give them Writings if they choose on the part of the Company—

*[Notation on back of letter in William Blount's handwriting]
A Copy of a letter wrote by William Blount to Donelson Martin & Severe

William Blount to Lachlin McIntosh, John Morrell, William Downes, and Stephen Heard
Copy*

[HILLSBOROUGH, May 31, 1784]

Gentlemen,

Before you reach the Long Island I presume you will find yourselves much fatigued with travelling, and I am not without my fears that you will be discouraged from attempting the intended Visit, to the Bent of Tenessee but I hope a View of the advantages, which present themselves will be sufficient to induce you to persvere—

The Object of the Tenessee Company in purchasing the Bent and (I suppose) your's in Accepting the appointment as commissioners must have been the same, *I mean private Emolument* and in Order that we may both obtain our *purposes* it is Necessary, We should understand each Other and that our Acts should tend to our mutiose advantage, that is that our Intrust should be joint which can only be by each of you, Accepting an equal Share with the original Petitioners whose Names are known to you and if this is agreeable to you, please signify your Approbation to Misser^{es}. Dondeldson, Martin & Severe and it shall bend the company to admit you each as joint Adventurers, and

*Probably a draft which Blount coped and mailed.

if you think writings Necessary they will on the part of the Company enter into such as may be proper. You have power, *to make the company such, compensation as may be deemed Adequate and satisfactory*, No Bond nor no Oath has been required nor no Instructions, given you from whence as well as the General disposition of the best informed part of your legislature, I think it ardent they intended and wished you to be liberal and if [2] you accede to my Proposition of our Interest being the same you will have a share of your own liberty—It was the Opinion of Gen^l. M^c.Intosh that the whole of the bent should be granted the company without any other consideration except that of settling a Number of People on it; for these seven Weeks past I have been attending the legislature of this State, now siting at this place that body have passed an act ceeding to the Congress of the United States all the Teretory owned by this State lying West of the Apalachan mountain the leading step to this act was a similar Act passed by the State of Virginia and I suspect Your State will also be under the Necessity of following her Example and should this be the case as I am sure it will had you not at any rate better make a liberal Grant to the Company than leave it for the State to give to Congress—The quantity of Land contained in the Bent is unknown in my Petition, I composed it to contain 300.000. Acres more or less it may contain some more tho Not much so that should you grant the whole of the bent for 300.000 Acres more or less I think it would *be most prudent* but should you think otherwise, I wish whatever quantity you may think best to grant should be bounded by Natural Boundaries except the Northern line & that may be bounded by the Southern line of this State and let it be expressed to contain as much more or less. Your Brother Commissioners will Show you a letter I have just recved from my frend in Congress by which you will see it will be very eaesey to people the Bent, Such Another appertunity may never present itself of Making a Spec [3] and there's an old Proverb which says "make Hay while the sun shines," of which I wish you to be mindfull—the long siting of the Assembly prevents my meeting you at the long Island which I much wished but I will either meet you at your Return or I will visit you in Georgia at your spring Session. On my return home I was sorry to find that the Goods promised the Indians had not been delivered agreeable to contract but there were Reasons for it which Mess^{rs}. Donaldson Martin & Severe will inform you and Such as I. hope will

prove satisfactory the Goods were by me purchased and sent up to the Moravian Town¹⁸ before I went to Georgia, I wish you an agreeable Journey and greate Choice and Great plenty of Cheek-amagga Squaws—I am with great Respect.

Your most Obedient

Humble Servant

W^m. BLOUNT

Hillsborough May 21st 1784

[Notation on back of letter in William Blount's handwriting]

*A copy of a letter wrote by William Blount to

Mess^{rs}. M^c. Intosh, Morell, Downes & Herd

Commissioners of the State of Georgia

Henry Montfort¹⁹ to William Blount

HALIFAX June 10th. 1784

Dear Sir

This will be delivered you by Montfort Stokes²⁰ who is now on his way to take Charge of my part of the Ship Carolina I have desired him to Call on you and to consult you on the Voyage and the future disposal of the Vessell and Cargo and further I have given him Instructions to follow your and Reads Instructions in every thing—What think you of selling the Vessell and Cargo when She arrives in the West Indies. and purchasing a Vessell that will carry about 150. or 200 Hhd^s. and let her come to Washington I think it would suit us better than being concern^d. at Wilmington your and my part would purchase a Vessel of that Size and load her in: say with Salt. Rum. Sugar.

¹⁸Salem, now a part of the "Twin City," Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

¹⁹Henry Montfort of Warren County was one of the commissioners to purchase tobacco for the state. *State Records of North Carolina*, XVIII, v-vi; XIX, 442, 778, 787; XX, 52.

²⁰Montfort Stokes was clerk of the Rowan County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions (1790-1811). He removed to Wilkesboro later and became politically prominent, serving as United States Senator, representative and senator in the state legislature, and governor of North Carolina. He was made Indian commissioner and left North Carolina to reside at Fort Gibson, in the area which was to become the state of Oklahoma. He remained there until his death in 1842; *The North Carolina Historical Review*, XIV (April, 1937), 185n; XIV (October, 1937), 377n; *The News and Observer* (Raleigh), March 13, 1933. See William Blount to [Richard Dobbs Spaight], August 29, 1783, above, p. 91, for comments on the purchase of the *Caroline*.

Coffee: & Molasses. and one third in Specia in Order to make a ready purchase of a Cargo to Send her out again. Tho I submit the whole to you and Reade. I am yours

HENRY MONTFORT

Addressed: Col^o William Blount

at

Piney Grove

Thomas Williams²¹ to John Gray Blount

OCACOCK July 14th. 1784

Sir.

I recd your Letter last Saturday morning and I will do my Endeavours to Comply with thes same,

I must inform you that I would have been at sea last friday, if Mr. Baily would have carried the Vessell over the Swash but he would neither do it himself, nor let any other pilot do it, untill the Tides was very low on the Swash when he left the Vessell at the Mouth of it, I am obliged to give an order to the Pilot here for bringing her over the swash, which Mr. Baily ought to pay out of his Country Pilotage, You will therefore please to settle it with him²²—I have Shipd Churchill Windley as Cook, out of the Schooner, & as he has been at Sea before I am oblidged to give him 6 Doll^s. P Month, & the Barrels of Tar, put on board by John Ball, at 11/.

I have got all out of the Schooner²³ this day & shall sail the first Opportunity—

²¹Thomas Williams often served as a supercargo for the Blounts. He was on his way to the West Indies.

²²Piloting over the swashes (channels with high sand beds) was very difficult and experienced pilots were required. These pilots were governed by state laws and undoubtedly had built up extensive *quasi* codes of their own.

²³See Crittenden, *Commerce of North Carolina*, 9-12.

If in Case I do not sell the Brig I must get her a New Main staysail for Coming on the Coast in September as I expect not to be able to Come before.

I am Sir your most Obedient

Humble Servant

THOMAS WILLIAMS

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr.

Merchant

Washington

fav'd by

Capt Denison

Thomas Williams to John Gray Blount²⁴

GUADALOUPE Augst. 12th. 1784

Sirs/

This will inform you of my Arrival at Bessaterre the 8th. inst. where I found that port Shut, I lay the Vessell off and on went on Shore & Delivered my Letters to Mr. Donall the highest price I could get there was 24 Doll^s.²⁵ for Lumber (Sawed) round & five for Shingles—but as you directed me to follow his advice, he Advised me to come to Point Peter, & if I could not sell there, he advised me, thro' your writing to him So to do, to make a French Bottom of the Brig, which will give you the Priveledge of all the French Ports, Accordingly I followed his advice for when I arrived here I found the Markets very low Plank & Scantling the Livers [Livres] at the Highest & Shingles 5 Dollars [———] Shingles alone would fetch 6 or 6½ Doll^s. [— — —] Lumber along about 140 Livres, I leaned [learned] by [— — —] Thomson from Nixington who Stopt. at St. Eustatie 4 Days that y. Shingles he had on board would fetch there only 4 Doll^s. P M. [per thousand] & no demand at all for no kind of Lumber which occasioned him to come up here So I thought it most to your advantage to Act as I did, This afternoon the papers is all got out of the Office & shall go to Bassitere Tomorrow Morng. the Expences of French papers & Port Charges all together there does not quite Amount to five Joes²⁶ [2] The

²⁴This manuscript is badly worn. Lines indicate portions entirely missing or illegible.

²⁵The Spanish dollar of eight reals. A real was equal to about 12½ cents in English hard money. These dollars circulated widely at this time and were sometimes referred to as pieces of eight.

²⁶A gold Portuguese coin worth about \$8.81. See above (1783), p. 36, n. 10.

Brig's being too small for the Merchants in this Island I found it is a hard matter to sell her, the Most I had offered for her was four hundred Joes wch [which] was One hundred less than your Lowest price & the not Selling the Brig induced me the More to Make a french bottom of her as you may send her to any french port, Staves & heading at this place now, Commands from 26 to 30 Doll^{sr}.—I have been informed since my arrival that there is a great demand for Lumber at Port au Prince Occasioned by that greatest part of that. Town being reduced to Ashis, All Kinds of Lumber in St. Kitts & Dominica & all the French Islands is the same as it is here, Molasses here is 21 Doll^s a bl[— — —] with the Cask, & Coffee from 1/. to 1/3 P/h^d and [not allowed] to be Carried any where but to old france[.] Salt a[t St.] Martins about three weeks ago was two pieces of Eight Pr Barrel & it is supposed it is or will be soon 1/2 piece of Eight at Turk's Island—I expect to sail from this Island in about a fortnight from this & when I arrive I shall be able to give you fuller Account of my proceedings—

My Respect to Mrs. Blount & am Sir,

Your most Obedient & Humble Servant

THOMAS WILLIAMS

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr.

Merch^t. in Washington

N. Carolina

fav^d. by Capt. Thomson

Tyler & Mumford to Thomas Blount and John Gray Blount

KINGSTON JAMAICA

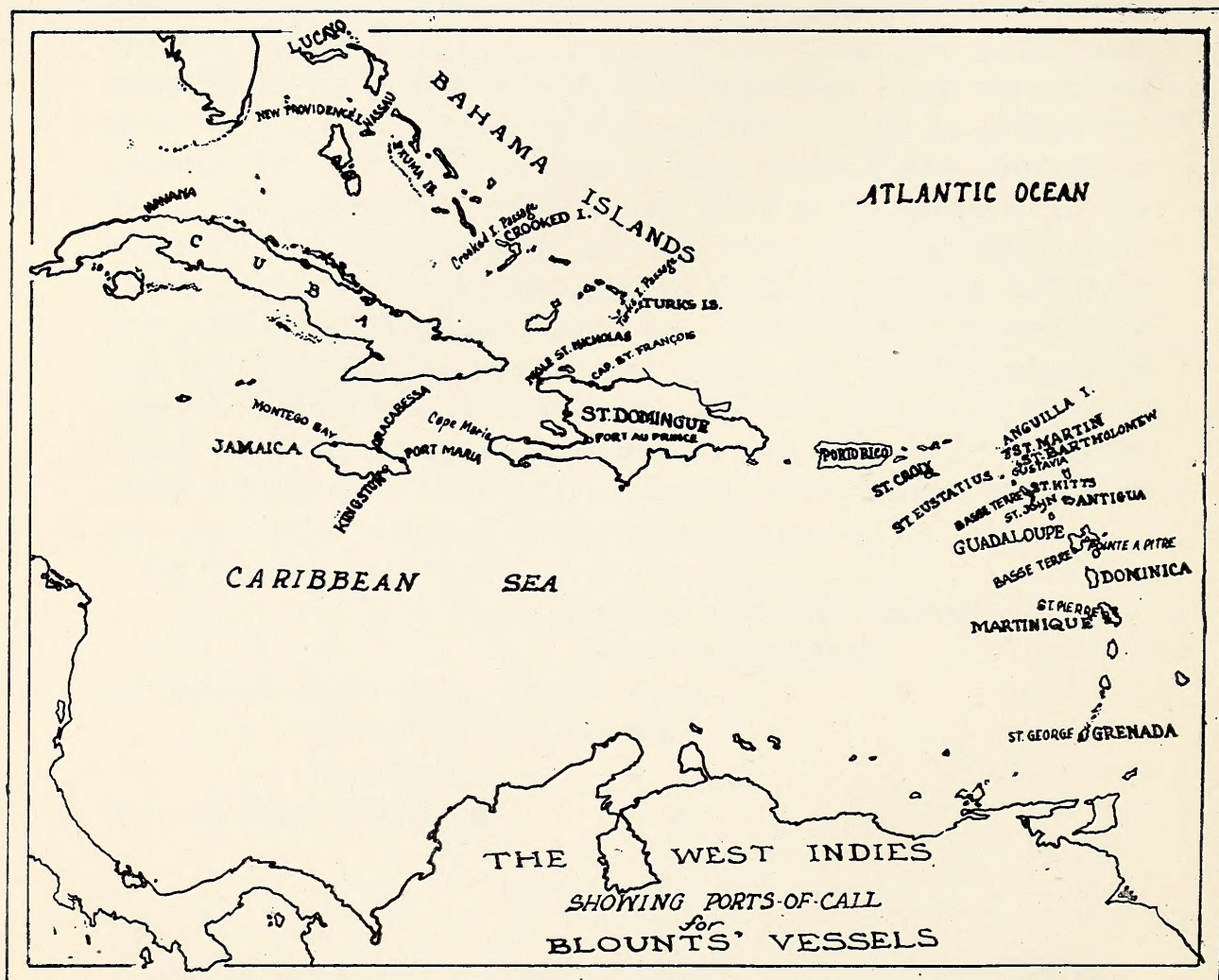
August 17, 1784

Mess^{rs}. John Gray, and Thomas Blount

Washington N^o. Carolina

Gentlemen—

We write you Via Charles Town under Cover to Mess^{rs} Scarborough and Cooke; and hope through this Channell, you may receive our information, timely enough to profit by it; all those Vessells that were destined for the Continent, are either lost or dismasted, that we flatter ourselves this account will be the first, that you will have of Our Situation, as the Vessell sails in the Morning—



The "Ports of Call" for the Blount Vessels
 From "Three Blount Brothers in Business and Politics," by Alice B. Keith.

Never has a Hurricane before this made so general a devastation all the Vessells in the Ports of Port Royall, and Kingston, are either Sunk or dismasted, Many houses, in the town and adjacent plaices, thrown down, and destroyed As the Wind blew for Some time from the West; and from the North, we are under the most painfull Apprehensions, for those Quarters, The Rivers are so Swolen; that no News as yet have been received, The loss of Ships, and Houses, however dreadfull, is nothing when compared to the loss of Our Plantam walks; from Whence were and ever was, our only dependance For the further maintenance of our Negroes, They are all destroyed and Famine Stares us in the Face, Under these Calamitous Circumstances, The Govunor has[,] we have every reason to believe[,] Declared Kingston a [2] Free Port For sometime,²⁷ Our Interest in this is to advise you of so Interesting a Circumstance that you may profit by it and govern yourself Accordingly—

We make a tender of our Services and with true esteem are—

Gentlemen Your obedt. hum^l Serv^{ts}

TYLER & MUMFORD

The Governor resides in Spanish Town, 14 Miles from Kingston²⁸—We every moment expect to hear the prayer of our petitions confirmed—But should it not—no difficulty can possibly attend American Vessells for 12 Months to come; if with Provisions & Lumber—

Cable Mumford

Addressed: Messrs. Thomas Blount & John Gray

Merchts

Wilmington

North Carolina

To the care of Malletts & Mumford

[Notation at foot of letter] Recd under Cover and forwarded by

Gentlemen your

Hum^b. Servants

Scarborough & Cooke

²⁷The lieutenant-governor did open the port for admission of provisions and lumber for four months and the time was later extended. Such emergencies went far towards nullifying the restrictive measures of the British government and legalizing American trade with the islands. Keith, "Relaxations in the British Restrictions on the American Trade,"—.

²⁸See map, "Ports of Call," on opposite page.

*Joseph Martin to William Blount*Long Island y^e. 28th of august 1784

Dear Sir/

this moment the Waggin with the Indian Goods arrive heare with a few necessaries for the Commissioners—what Such neglect will End in I Know not tho I fear the consequences[.] none of the commissioners gave their attendance Except Colo Herd who came ye 20th of July & wait untill y^e 25 August—in which time we heard nothing from Colo armstrong—we proceeded to Lay off a County & choose officers & c

The office opens y^e 15th march next at the mouth of Elk River oppisate the Muscle Shoals—if the Goods Had Come forward in Time for the Deed to have been Executed for Colo Herd to have Laid before the assembley of Georgia every thing would have been well²⁹ I Expect to Set out for the assemble in a few Days tho fear it will Rise Before I get there. if any thing of moment Turn up Shall Endeavour to write you Intrace [*sic.* that instant]

I am with Respect Your most ob^d ser^t

JOS MARTIN

Colo Blunt

addressed: colo. William Blunt

*Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount*EDENTON 6th Sept^r: 1784

Dear Sir

Your Brother William alledges that there are Entries made sufficiently extensive in the Western Country. Besides the separate grant that I have as an Officer I propose to pay for as much as shall leave me some odd of 20,000 A^s. after the ¼ is deducted as commissions for taking up & surveying. I think the Certificate I left with you will pay for 15400 A^s after the £ 100 is deducted. I wish to buy about £ 1300 more in Certificates. Can you buy this Sum for me before the General Assembly meets. I expect to buy them at 5 for one or four shillings in the Pound.

²⁹This letter seems to exonerate William Blount from the accusation that he used the goods for personal purchases. See Richard Caswell to William Blount, in Edmund C. Burnett, ed., *Letters of Members of the Continental Congress* (8 vols. Washington, D. C.: Carnegie Institution, 1921-1936), VIII, 646.

I have seen some hundred sold at that Price in Halifax. Mr Gilmore bot them for Chas Johnson. If you think you can buy them, in order that you may do it without interfering with other of your plans I shall send you Cash by next Post. And besides the Cash for purchasing those Certificates I expect to put into your Hands towards the End of this month 1000 or 1500 Paper Dls. I believe that I have already deposited in the Bank at Philad^a pretty near enough for my next Winters Expences in Congress. Perhaps your Brother William may have occasion to take up some of the mony that I shall place in your Hands if he should buy any Lot or Lots for our joint Acco^t:—I shall try on this Week to buy 3 or 400 Bushels of Wheat if Capt: Collins³⁰ has left so much unsold down the Country. I think it will pay freight and make the mony into Silver for [2] for northern Consumption.

I am Dr Sr Yr hhble Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

Mr Jn^o G. Blount.

P:S: I have sent you by Post Banks & Bells Bond for £120. Mr Banks when I saw him at your Father's desired me to send the Bond to Washington & that Mr Jn^o Cooper would pay the Mony. Of this be pleased to inform Mr: Cooper & ask him for the mony. Let me know his answer that I may take measures accordingly. If Mr Cooper refuses to pay or if he chances not to be in Town be so good as write by this Post to Mr Banks informing him that the Bond is in your Hands & requesting him to forward the money.

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr.

Washington

³⁰Josiah Collins of Edenton was a wealthy merchant, shipper, and land speculator. He was also prominent in political circles of the state. He was judge of the admiralty for the port of Edenton in 1779, nominated for governor by the senate in 1788, and chosen to the State Council in 1795. His only daughter, Nancy, married Jacob Blount, the youngest son of Jacob and Barbara Blount. (See the biographical sketch in the introduction to this volume.) His son, Josiah, Jr., had a rope factory and made cordage for the shipbuilders which was "universally allowed by the best judges to be superior to any imported." The hemp for the rope had to be imported; nevertheless, he must have had a fair market, since North Carolina built many more vessels than has heretofore been noted. In the spring of 1795, "Thirty sail of vessels [were] said to be building in the district of Edenton alone." Legislative Papers, January 8, 1795; November 10, 1788; *The Herald; A Gazette for the Country* (New York), May 16, 1795.

*Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount*EDENTON 13th Sept^r 1784

Dear Sir

I have sent you by McCabe Jn^r:³¹ 250 Dls or £ 100 as a temporary supply. The badness of the Weather and my Indisposition has prevented me from calling on the Treasurer but propose setting out on tomorrow. Shall send you whatever Cash I get of him with some more that I am to get here on calling for it.

Inclosed is a writ for the Use of Mr Banks if he shall finally need it—There is a Blank left for the name of the County in which it may be served which you will be pleased to fill up. Observe also that I had forgot the Date of the Bond but supposed it to be dated on June 1782, if I have been mistaken send me back the Declaration that one may be sent with proper Date. You will observe that I would not have the writ served but in the last Extremity. Tell him that the mony is greatly wanted. The security by the way is not good wherefore I would be glad to get the Cash; beside you know the inconvenience of lying out of the mony for 3 six months Courts. However if you find that Mr Banks is like to leave Washington & the state without paying the Cash, cause the writ, to be executed. Be pleased to keep the [2] the mony in Hands if Mr Banks should pay it to you. I hope your Brother W^m has made a conditional agreem^t with Smith for the Price of the Point in Case it turns out to be Smith Property.

I am Dr Sr Y^r obed^t Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

Jn^o G. Blount Esq^rAddressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Washington

*Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount*EDENTON 27th Sept^r 1784

Dear Sir

Your favour of 18th Inst. Came to Hand to day, I sent you by W^m McCabe on the 13th £ 100 and on the 20th £ 100. Had intended sending £ 100 more today but shall commit it to Mr Payne or some private Hand—certainly not to a Post Rider who

³¹Bryan McCabe of Washington, North Carolina.

could take out Part of the first Sum and give no Account at all of the Second—Be so good as write me by first post whether both the sums are yet paid into your Hands. I am very sorry for the sickness that has afflicted both your family & your Brother's.

I am Dr Sr Y^r hble Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

Jn^o G. Blount Esq^r.

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r

Washington

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

EDENTON 6th Oct^r 1784

Dear Sir

You will be so good as inclose Mr Bank's Bond under a Cover for Mr Iredel & hand it to Mr Payne or some other safe Conveyance, My next object is Mr Bell who is out of the Country, but I must try to get at his Effects. I have besides an obligation of Mr Bank's for Two or three Hhd of Tobacco. I wish you would inform me from Time to Time who manages his Effects and what chance there is of getting any Payment. I hope you have been able to buy some cheap Certificates from the Western Gentlemen on their coming to the assembly.

I am with great Regard

Dr Sr Your obed^t Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

Jn^o. G. Blount Esq^r.

Nathanael Greene³² to John Gray Blount

PETERSBURGH Octo 25th 1784

Dear Sir

Capt Carnes returning to South Carolina by the uper Road obliges me to send my Servant back with Mr. Cooper horse. I borrowed a Saddle of Thomas Ogden which I have directed him to leave with you and which I must beg you to convey to New Bern the first opportunity. The fellow is apt to drink which

³²The noted Revolutionary leader was held in very high esteem by the Blounts.

obliges me to give him only Money sufficient to carry him from Stage to Stage. He goes from Washington to [2] to Wilmington on foot. I beg you to furnish him with two or three dollars or what may be necessary to bear his expences from Washington to Wilmington where he is to embark from by water for Charleston. Desire your brother to minute it in his bill of disbursements. Give my compliments to your family and all friends. I go from this to Philadelphia and from thence to Newport and intend to be back to Charleston by the 10th of December.

I am dear Sir

With esteem

Yours

NATH GREENE

Mr. John Blount

Addressed: Mr. John Blount
Washington

Thomas Bonner³³ to John Gray Blount

BEAUF^t [Beaufort] County 4th Nov^r. 1784

Dear

Sir

Permitt me to ask the fav^r. of you to take under your protection the Inclos'd Bill and to present the same in your House [of the legislature]; As you are not unacquainted with the unhappiness of my Sister [. I] need say but little upon that head but that she is Stroling about the Country under no manner of Controle, and I have lately learned that she has made some conveyances of her property, altho she has not been possessed of any part of it, but I have no authority to withhold it from her. The Intent of the Bill is only to Secure her little property whereby she may be Suported, & if the power of conveying is not taken from her by Law she must very soon becom a Vagerant.

³³This was Thomas Bonner, Jr., the scion of a prominent family in Beaufort County. When Thomas Bonner, Sr., died he left much of his property to his weak-minded daughter, Elizabeth, and made his son, Thomas, Jr., one of the executors of the property. There was no place of detention for such subjects as Elizabeth at this time in North Carolina. *Colonial Records of North Carolina*, X, 206, 530; *State Records of North Carolina*, XII, 917, 929; XXIV, 706-707.

Be pleas'd acq^t. Mr. Aldorson & Mr Smaw³⁴ of the Circumstances & that they will be pleas'd to use their best Indeavours in promoteing the Bill; and [I] flatter myself on your part there will be nothing waiting: As it is a matter not common it may surprize many at first hearing; but hope you and the other Gent^l: Men from this County will explain the reasons. I intended to Newbern this day but am too poorly to go from home please let me here from you the first opportunity concerning this Matter. I am

D^r Sir Your ob^d Serv^t

THO^s BONNER

Addressed: John Blount Esq^r.

at his Lodgings in Newbern

Favr of Mr. Griffeth

Richard Dobbs Spaight to John Gray & Thomas Blount

PHILADELPHIA 9th. Novem^r. 1784

Gentlemen/

Yours of the 27th. August I found lying in the post office on my Arrival here. The circumstances relative to my receiving the hundred dollars from Stuart and Barr are briefly thus, on my arrival here ab^t. the 7th. or 8th. of June last, I waited on Stuart & Barr to get their acceptance of your Bill for 500 doll^s. they at that time declined accepting it, or, at least put it off for some days; /an account of which I gave your brother William in one of my letters,/ at the same time Mr. Barr informed me that he had rec^d. 100 bbs Tar shipped on my Acc^t. & risque by your house, and asked me if the nett proceeds of that, with the Am^t. of Ogdens Bill on Boston in my favor/which I had sent to Mr. Barr to negotiate for me/ would not answer my purpose for the present. I told him it would not and if the bill was not accepted I should be obliged to write to you to remit the money in some other manner—he then told me to wait some days, which I accordingly did, and about two or three days before I returned to Annapolis /24th. June/ got it accepted & discounted at the Bank—I at that time told Mr. Barr that I knew nothing of the 100

³⁴Thomas Alderson and John Smaw were representatives from Beaufort County to the General Assembly. Alderson was in the lower house and Smaw was in the senate. John Gray Blount was also in the lower house.

bls Tar, but supposed I should be informed by letter respecting it—that I did not then want [2] want money & would let it lye where it was—but that in case I should be pushed for money, I would either draw upon, or, write to him for it—Accordingly about the middle of August, the Committee of the States having broke up, and my business calling me to North Carolina to which place I could not proceed, without some money in addition to what I had, to enable me to pay off my Acc^{ts}. and bear my Expences home; and supposing the Tar to have been shipped by the orders of Mr. W^m. Blount, to whom I had wrote to receive my salary for me, I wrote to Mr. Barr to send me down the Am^t. of the 100 bbs Tar, or at least 100 Doll^s. of it—Accordingly by the return of the post, I rec^d. from him, a bank note for one hundred Dollars—this Transaction together with Mr. Barr's letter, I made your Brother Acquainted with immediately on my return to Carolina, and then, for the first time understood it was a mistake.

These are the circumstances under which the money was rec^d. by me, and under no others would I have taken the liberty to have either wrote or drawn for it—Nor did I conceive at the time, that, it was money belonging to your house otherwise you may be assured, I should never had drawn for it, without particular orders from you, had my Situation for want of money, been ever so disagreeable—

[3] The Tar being Shipped in my name, without any letter explaining the matter was the cause of the Mistake—a mistake which I am exceedingly sorry for as it has perhaps been a disadvantage to you—Whatever disadvantage it may have occasioned, I am very willing to remedy, in any manner in my power, as the money was, at that time, of singular Service to me—I am

Gentlemen/

Your most Obedient
& very humble Ser^t.

RICH^d. DOBBS SPAIGHT.

Mess^{rs}. John G. & Tho^s. Blounts

Tyler & Mumford to John Gray & Thomas Blount, Merchants

KINGSTON Jamaica, Nov^r. 20th. 1784

Mess^{rs}. John Gray & Thomas Blount—

Gentlemen

We wrote you the 7th. August last, advising of the calamity which happened us by a Hurricane the Evening of the 31st. July last—Since which we have been without your favors—

American Produce of every sort rose 100 PC^t after this calamity—but our Marketts were soon glutted [glutted], by the Governor opening our Ports for four Months—Inch Boards and Twenty Inch Shingles are however in demand—and looking up—so is flour, Bread, and Rice—we inclose you a prices Current for your Government—The Port will continue open till March next.—

We are Gentlemen very respectfully

Your Ob^t. Hum^l. Ser^t.

TYLER & MUMFORD

Addressed: Messers. Jno. Gray & Thos Blount
Care Mesrs Malletts & Mumford
Washington
North Carolina

*William Blount to Abner Nash*³⁵

[Copy]*

NEW BERN Dec^r. 2^d. 1784

Dear Sir,

Permit me to remind you that from my own Neglect I have nothing from under your Hand whereby I can shew that I stand pledged for you to the Entry Office for five thousand Pounds Specie Certificates the Price of the fifty thousand Acres of land I entered for you and for which the Titles will issue in your Name. The proper Transfers having been made and lodged in the Office. I beg you to write me in answer in such Words as it may appear in Case of accidint

Yours & [etc.]

W^m BLOUNT

*Blount used his copy of the letter sent to Nash to serve for his own notation.

³⁵See above, p. 124, n. 93 (1783).

Mr. Abner Nash

[2] Nash paid to the Office Two thousand five hundred pounds and Grants have accordingly issued for 25000 Acres of Land and by his Orders the other 25000 were transferred from him to other people who chose to pay for them—So said Geo. Doherty & John Armstrong April 9th 1790

W^m. BLOUNT

*Alexander Martin to John Gray &
Thomas Blount, Merchants*

BLOUNT HALL 3^d. December 1784

Gentlemen,

In consequence of your engagement, I have issued Warrants in your favor on the Collectors of the import for £1.200 (twelve hundred pounds) which you will please to dispose of in the manner you shall best judge to effect a payment, to as large amount & as speedily as possible,³⁶ in Philadelphia to Mr. Marbois, to extinguish in part, a debt due from this State, to the Government of Martinique on acct. of the Marquis of Bretigney's [2] Bretigney's agency—For which Service, I engage by virtue of the authority vested in me, that you Shall be allowed a Commission equal to what is usual among merchants, in their Mercantile transactions. To this I am sure the General assembly cannot object, as they will not expect their Mercantile business done on better terms, than Individuals.

I am Gentlemen, You Most

Obedient Servant

ALEX. MARTIN

Mess^{rs}

John G. & Tho^s. Blount
Merch^{ts}. Washington

³⁶See Alexander Martin to John Gray and Thomas Blount, Merchants, Danbury, September 27, 1783, and Alexander Martin to Colonel William Blount, Hillsboro, October 28, 1783, above, pp. 113, 124.

*Alexander Martin to John Gray Blount*BLOUNT HALL Decem^r 4th. 1784

Dear Sir,

Waggons will wait upon you, sometime on Feb^y. for the Indian Goods. as I intend to hold the Treaty sometime in April or 1st. part of May. I have to request that you will change the light coloured Cloths for Blue, as that colour will not be agreeable to the Indians, a few fine pieces of blue Cloth will be necessary for the chief Warriors which in Lieu of the former I wish sent. or if you have not fine to send coarse particularly blue Strands of which their Match Coats are made

I wish you to be particular in [2] in this Business, that the Indians receive Satisfaction.

You will please to inform me the weight of the goods that I may apportion the Waggons accordingly, by the first Opportunity.

I am with much respect

& c Sir

Your Your most

humble Servant

ALEX. MARTIN

PS. If you cannot change the White Cloths they must be left until they be changed, or deduct this Sume from the Invoice which I should be sorry to have done—

AM

John Blount Esq^r.

*Abner Nash to William Blount*Dec^r. 6, 1784

Dear Sir

I rec^d. your favour respecting the 50,000 A^r Land you were so good as to enter in my behalf & become bound for the paym^t. wth. the entry taker for me; it was remiss in me who was the befriended & benefited person not to have rem^{td}. that it was proper for me to pass something from under my hand to endemnify you & hope you will ascribe it to my long sickness & natural negligence—I now fully acknowledge myself responsible for all the Entry Money of those Lands & will when I have the

pleasure to see you at the time you mention give anything more formal than this for the purpose.—I have intirely mislaid Mr. Purviance Lre [Letter] or should have shewn it to ye. at the assembly—The purport of it was that he would give me 2/. P acre for 25. or 30000 Ar. I hardly expect to see these things wound up and am quite willing to give up my former great prosperity
Yr Ob^t. Serv^t.

A NASH

Addressed: The Honble W^m Blount Esq
Speaker of the H Commons

Thomas Williams to John Gray Blount

On board ye Brigg Tom Peacock Dec^r. 8th. 1784

Sir

I have this day received all the Lumber out of the sloop, which does not quite fill up the Brigg, by 8 or 10 thous^d. Shingles—

You will please to Settle with Mr. David Wallis, for his Boat load; & Mr. W^m. Wallis's³⁷ Boat load over the Swash; by whose means I got over the Swash on Sunday. I expect, to sail over the Bar, this evening, & W^m. Wallis, is to Carry me out which if he does you will please to pay Mr. David Wallis the whole pilotage down & out, unless W^m. Wallis insist upon an order, which I shall know when he comes on board—

I met here wth. Capt Alderson & Mr. Green from Port Au prince who informe me that Markets are very low in that place only £ 8 P Thous^d. for Lumber & Still lower in Jamaica occasioned by a great number of arrivals there since the Storm, if I thought it Would meet your Approbation I would run the Island down & try the Markets from Antigua to Jamaica, but I do not know how it would please you in that [2] Respect, but whether or not I will call at Cape Francois & Know the Markets there & at Cape Nicholas³⁸ & if I find they are better there than at Ja-

³⁷Probably sons of John Wallace at Shell Island.

³⁸See map, "Ports of Call," p. 175, above.

maia I will beat up with my Cargo on Board & dispose of it to the Best advantage & in so doing I flatter myself you would be best pleased With

Sir your most, Obedient Serv^t.

THOMAS WILLIAMS

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r.

Merchant

Washington

avored by Capt McDaniel

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

TARB^o. Jan^y. 2^d. 1785

Dear Sir,

So great is the Scarcity of Pork in this neighboarhood or dishonesty of our Debtors to this Store, that I fear I shall not be able to get Pork enough for my family's use—I have now Sent Samuel Hall out to Tosneat & Contentney³⁹ to buy & directed him to give as high as 30/. P 100^{wt}. at 6 Months Credit rather than not purchase at least 5 or 6,000^{wt}—Toole has made upwards of 200 Barrels which is more than all the rest of the Town together will make, for the Season is now nearly or quite over owing to the great quantities driven to Virginia—had we not better buy of Mr. Toole the quantity we shall want? & what may I give him P Bar^l.? he will want hard Money—Col. John Shepard was here yesterday & requested me to inform you that he would be with you on the 20th. Inst. to pay you £4000 Certificates & he has been a little disappointed or would have come the 10th.—The 200 Bush^{ls}. Salt Sent up by Toole's boat fell short 54½ Bush^{ls}. pray write me by first opportunity what's to be done in the matter—Tobacco comes in but Slowly & the Sale of Salt as well as dry Goods is quite dull—send me no more—if you can Sell it

I am

Yours &^c.

THO. BLOUNT

³⁹Tosneat, more familiarly known as Toisnot, and Contentney (Contentnea) were names of communities in North Carolina. They lay near Contentnea Creek between Washington and New Bern, in the vicinity of Jacob Blount's home. See Tanner, "Map of North and South Carolina," p. 64, above.

De Marbois⁴⁰ to John Gray and Thomas Blount, Merchants

PHILADELPHIA 15 January 1785

Gentlemen,

I have received a letter from the governor of your State in which he desires me to correspond with you for the remittance of a Sum due by your State to the colony of martinico—his Excellency informs me you have been Directed to remit to this place 7000. Dollars as Soon as produce can be Shipped for that purpose. I have been so repeatedly urged to procure the payment of the Sum due that I wish to be enabled to give soon a satisfactory account of the transactions to the minister of the navy: be so Kind, Gentlemen, as to forward the business as much as will lay in your [2] power. I have put myself in considerable advance to the King being in Daily expectation of that remittance & some other of the Same nature.

I Desire you'll present my Sincere compliments to your brother [William Blount] the late Delegate & be persuaded & of the Desire I have to be of any Service to you either here or in france/.

I am with great esteem

Gentlemen

Your very humble obt.

Servant

DE MORBOIS

Stuart & Barr to John Gray & Thomas Blount, Merchants

PHILADELPHIA Febuary 23 1785

Gentlemen

We have duely Rec^d your esteemed favours Per the Schooner Will & the Schooner Betsey Capt Kersey with all the Difrent Consenements [consignments] by them Vessells, and we have made Sale of the Goods, at the prices underneath, the Fish is Still on hand and we feare will be a Looseing article, as the Northen States Amply Supply our market with Both dry & Wet fish[.] the Tobacco is allso on hand, the Vessell unfortunately

⁴⁰François, Marquis de Barbé-Marbois "was secretary of the first French mission, headed by Chevalier de la Luzerne in 1779, and later Consul-General to the United States." Eugene Parker Chase, ed. and trans., *Our Revolutionary Forefathers: The Letters of François, Marquis de Barbé-Marbois . . . As Secretary of The French Legation, 1779-1785* (New York: Duffield Co., 1929), vi.

was froze up at Chester, & we have only Rec^d. the Tob^a aboute 2 weeks ago, when we had a small thaw, and the River has only Been Cleare of Ice, but two days there has Been as yet no Sale for Tobacco, but we expect to be able to dispose of it in a Little time, as soon as that & the fish is disposed of we will furnish your Ac^{ts}.. which may be Perhaps by the next oppertunity, as we found no person willing to go into the proposals made of a Consinement mentioned in your former Letter, there Being no water Conveyance, we thought it useless to put you to the Trouble of paying postage when we Could neither Benefit you or give you any Information worth the postage. We have paid Hugh Williamson Esqr as you have directed, and a Part to J [John] Sitgraves Esqr⁴¹ & Shall pay him the Remainder as he will be in want a few Days ago he wrote us he would be obliged to Returne to Carolina, & Seemed anctious to know whether any further Remittances had arrived for him, we do not know Whether you are to Supply, all the three Dellagates with money or Not, But, from there [their] Letters the[y] are all in want of money,⁴² We Sincarely Returne you oure Thankes for your attention, to oure Debt, of Herd & Ingrahms & with this you will Receive Letters from oure Neighbour J Pringle Respecting the Bill he sent you, &c. we are sorry to Inform you we have not Been able to Recover your money from Seth Yeomans, as yet, we had not Receved your orders to have him arrested Before he Left the Cittey, and Since [then] we have wrote him Repeatedly and appeled to his Imployer but all to no Purpose. he neither [2] Wrote us or Called on us Since he Left this place, we have engaged a Person who knows him to acquaint us when he Comes here and if in oure power we will take due Care of him, we have allso paid Price Higins the amount of his Debt against you, How the Demand for the produce of State will be this ensueing Season we cant inform you only we Suppose from the present appearance the[y] will nearley Hold theire former Prices, and the price Currant we now send you is no more than a Nominal one or Supposition, as their [there] has Been no Sales since the opening of the River, Mr James Stuart Sends to you By this Vessell a Chasis & Harnis [harness] which you will please to

⁴¹John Sitgreaves (1757-1802), a very good friend of the Blounts, served under General Caswell in the Revolution. He later represented New Bern in the house of commons (several eastern boroughs had representatives in addition to those from the county. See Connor, *Manual*, for these towns): and was speaker of the house in 1787. He was also a member of the constitutional convention at Hillsboro in 1788, where he sided with the pro-ratification group; and he was appointed a Federal district judge. He held the last-mentioned office until his death in 1802. Ashe, *Biographical History*, II, 398-400.

⁴²John Sitgreaves, Hugh Williamson, and Richard Dobbs Spaight. It was not unusual for the representatives of North Carolina to seek assistance from the Blounts.

dispose of to the Best advantage, it is Some what worne, but is in pretty Good order, and when New Cost 20 half Johannes,⁴³ if you are able to sell it you will please to make Remittance in some article which you think will Turne oute to the most advantage—We have now a good assortment, of Cottens & Printed Linens & Checks with a Veriety of other Goods, & Should you be in want of anything of the Kind we shall esteem it a favour to Receve your order, for Such Goods as we may have which you may be in want of—The underwriters are desirious of Hearing of the Ship Carolina &c.—

We have said nothing further to the Dunkins as we found it would be useless as we wrote you by the Returne of your Sloop, if we can advance your Intrest in any manner you will please to acquaint us how, & it Shall be Cheerfully Compld with

Since Writing the above the Vessell has Been detained Longer, We have had time to Coppey your accounts as we thought it would give you pleasure to see how we Have disposed of your Goods and applid your money and as Soon as the Tobacco & the fish are Sold we will place the Neate [net] proceeds to your Credit, as we are Prest for Remittances, we Shall esteem it a favour, for anything you Can, Send forward and at Same time we Returne you Oure Sincare thanks for all Past favours, and [3] any thing you please to Commit to oure Care Shall be faithfully attended to and to Promote your Intrest Shall be the Studey of Gentlemen your Most Humble

Ser^{ts}.

STUART & BARR

Mess^{rs} John G. & T Blount

P. S. Please to send us 2 Barrells of your Hams by the first oportuneity J.B.

P S There is Great Complainte to the Shippers of Navel Stores from England which say the pitch was much adulterated with dirt & the Turpentine Very foule we hope your Sale Law will Regulate the abuse

Note upon Closeing up your acts we Belive we have Charged you with one of R^d D Speihts [Spaight's] Bill twice, should that be the Case we will Rectify it, as Soon as we have time to examine

S & B

Addressed: Messrs John G & Thomas Blount

Merchts

Washington

⁴³See above, p. 173, n. 26 (1784).

*Alexander Martin to John Gray Blount*DANBURY 26th. February 1785

Sir,

Yours of the 17th. Instant, was handed me by Express, relative to the Indian Goods: I am sorry to inform you that the business of the Treaty is likely to be postponed for some time:—By the last accounts from the Western Country, a considerable body of the Inhabitants of Greene, Sullivan, & Washington, under the direction of General Sevier, have declared themselves independent of North Carolina, by the name of the State of Franklin; are determined not to be amenable to any law, or obedient to any officer from the former Government.—that they [2] they have had a Convention, formed a Constitution, & appointed [John] Sevier Governor,—that they have entered into sundry resolutions, among which, they have resolved, that no office shall be opened, or disposition of land take place in the Western Country, but by the consent of the new State; the vacant land of which, they consider absolutely vested in themselves—that all lands entered in the late land office, shall be forfeited in a certain limited time unless the owners seat the same and become Citizens of the new State⁴⁴ by taking an Oath of Allegiance.—that they consider themselves competent in the transaction of Indian affairs, in their territory, without being beholden to the old Government for Goods, or their interposition. that [3] that should goods arrive for this purpose, they will consider the same as an infringement on their sovereignty, & will seize the same, and arrest any person from North Carolina acting as Commissioner.—I have not yet a full confirmation of these facts, but hourly expect it.—I intend shortly to call the Council, & perhaps the assembly, to lay these matters before them.—Governor Caswell⁴⁵ will be invited to assist at the Council, on whom the Government will shortly devolve, who no doubt will take such measures in his power, to reduce these rash Citizens to Obedience—The Council may ad-

⁴⁴The state of Franklin. Certain leaders of western North Carolina (the area now incorporated in the state of Tennessee), for some reason, or perhaps it would be more correct to say for several reasons, decided to separate from North Carolina and set up an independent state. They did not receive as much protection from the mother state as they felt was needed to combat the Indian menace. In all probability the movement for the state came without John Sevier's intention and gained such public support that he considered opposition to the movement futile and placed himself at the head of the action seeking independence and became the first governor of the new state. The situation was indeed delicate, since both John Sevier and Richard Caswell, Governor of North Carolina, were members of the Muscle Shoals land company. Thomas P. Abernethy, *Western Lands and the American Revolution*, (New York: D. Appleton-Century Company, 1917), 191, 292-294; *State Records of North Carolina*, XXII, 637-731.

⁴⁵Richard Caswell had been chosen governor of North Carolina.

wise the immediate sale of the Goods, as they may be injured by the Moth if kept longer on hand, & the monies returned to [4] to the Treasury of which I shall give you early advice.

I have received no certain intelligence of any mischief being committed at Cumberland, or Kentuckey by the Indians, but I am apprehensive their minds are hostile especially the Chickasaw's & Cherokee's—the latter being much exasperated by a favorite Chief of theirs being killed, by a Certain Major Hubbard of Greene County, on their land in a dispute that arose between them (but urged by the Indian with moderation) relative to the right of the soil they there stood on.—I have rec^d. no intelligences from Congress relative to the Cession act.

I am Sir,

With much respect

Your most Humble Servant

ALEX. MARTIN

John G. Blount Esquire

William Blount to John Gray Blount

PINEY GROVE March 4th 1785

A Man today whose Name I did not learn presented me with an Order drawn by William Murphy in fav^r. of Philip Rily obr [or bearer] for £ 120 which I refused to pay. The man who presented it told me that it or one similar had been presented to you and that you gave for answer that you Knew Nothing about it—The Day or the Day before Jack Sitgreavs was about to set out to South Carolina to purchase Negroes Murphy came down to Town with a Sum of Mony which he desired me to count that he might deposit it in the Loan Office upon which I told him if he would lend it to me that I would pay him an Interest which by my Father's Advise he did and I gave it to Sitgreaves. He never has at no Time ever said or even hinted that he wanted it tho I have and not long since desired him to bring the Note to my House that the Sum due might be ascertained since which he has repeatedly passed by without calling once [2] I have wrote Murphy a letter on the Subject that I believe will a little surprise him and have told him I will not pay him a Copper untill compeled and added that he was at perfect liberty to call on the Mr Rily & such other Friends as he might think proper to compel me—

Since I have read Spaight's letter I am very unwilling your Vessel should go without sending him something by her. could you or would you not let her take on Board for Freight for him 25 Barrells Pork if I could get it and Can't you get it and Ship it on Board her for him [?] the Money surely will soon be had from some quarter to pay for it. Would it not be convenient for Reading to sell that quantity of Pork for Money to enable him to purchase Naval Stores part Money and part Goods and as I would wish to remit him £100 in Specie [.] would it be convenient for you to exchange £100 hard for soft if it can be had and at what Difference?

[3] If you do the last that is make the Exchange I want you to do it only on mercantile Principles that of serving yourself and if you will not I must look out for those who will—

Pray write me in answer and send it to Mr. Pierces by Sunday 10. O'Clock where I will send to receive it as I must do something at New Bern if possible if I fail with you—

Mr. Thomas Ogden has sent me by the Bearer, as he expresses it his last Yorke Prices current tho' I find no date to them which I inclose to you Perhaps they may be useful to you—I think there must be some Mistake in the Price of Pork as I am sure there is [in] some other Articles particularly Indian Corn

I am &c

W^m. BLOUNT

[4] If you have any of Sitgreaves Warrants in hand I wish you would instruct them to be paid off in Craven as [the bank?] will take them up in preference to that of Spaight

Addressed: Mr. John G. Blount

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

TARB^o. 15th. March 1785

Dear Sir,

I send you herewith an Invoice of Goods got of Speed to Amot. of £207.10.10 3/4 Sterling agreeable to your instructions—& he will not by any means consent to my having more & indeed he cannot spare more of such articles as would do without ruining his assortment—you will see a great proportion of fine Cloths is already taken from necessity—Mr. Stokey will be with you Some-time next week & from his conversation conceive he wishes & expects to get into our employ—he talks of going with me to Eu-

rope, I wish he may [2] I cannot well reconcile myself to the thought of going in R B's Schooner, Suppose you write to Jn^o. Cooper of Portsmouth to know what Vessels are going from there?—I am fearful Tob^o. cannot be had to send to Europe if James takes any—I want Paper Currency can you Supply me The Sheriff of this County has none & tis uncertain when he will have—I must have £100 to comply with contracts 1st. day next month—I purchased 60 Barrels Corn at Vendue Six Months Credit at 13/6 P Bu about 2 miles from here, when must you have it? upon examining my Rum find have only about 700 Gal^s. including 150 Jamaica—[3] Soon as you are able pray send me more money of both kinds for am almost without & have got only 17 hh^d. Tob^o.—I am

Yours

THO. BLOUNT

*Richard Dobbs Spaight to William Blount
With Postscript by William Blount*

NEW YORK 29th. March 1785

Dear Sir/

In my letter to you of the 19th. Instant, I informed you, that the Delegation had nominated Benj^m. Hawkins as one of the Indian Commissioners for the southern department. The Election came on, on monday last—when he was almost Unanimously appointed eleven out of twelve States voting for him. the Jealousy of the circumscribed States, who thought that under the Idea of making peace with the Indians we had some under hand designs, which might be fatal to their claim of an equal partition of unlocated western territory among the member of the Union—occasioned a Mr. Dan^l. Carrol & a Mr. Perry to be elected his colleagues, the first from Maryland the other from Delaware State. they thought these two persons would be a check upon any designs that the southern States might have. this of Course gave very great dissatisfaction to the southern States, and occasioned a motion to be brought forward, for the Appointment of two additional commissioners, as neither Virginia, S^o. Carolina or Georgia had one, which after considerable opposition was at last agreed to—the persons elected were Gen^l. Pickens of S^o. Caro-

lina & Col^o. Jos^h. Martin of our State, he being nominated by the State of Virginia.

They are instructed to meet at Charleston on the 16th. of may to consult & take the necessary steps for carrying the resolution into Effect.

[2] We have no News from Europe the, British packets for January & February are daily expected, also a french packet—the January packet I expect has been blown of to the West indies—

Mr. Sitgreaves desires me to present his compliments to you—I am with very great Regard & Esteem.

Dear Sir,

Your most Ob^t. Servant

RICH^d. DOBBS SPAIGHT.

[Postscript]

PINEY GROVE April 8th 1785

I cannot say when I shall be at Washington but I will endeavour to come soon—

I can't learn whether there is Peace or War with the Emperor it appears as if no Vessels have arrived from Europe this Spring in America—

Spaight is very desirous to leave Congress and set out for Carolina on the 1st. of May and Will if he gets Mony to clear out. pray let me Know as soon as his Mony comes to hand and lay it out as soon as possible for his Relief—I wish to Know the fate of my own Warrant—

I have not a line from Wilmington since I sent Sitgreaves £ 80 Warrant therefore can't say what has been its fate. I daily expect Billy Grainger.

W^m. BLOUNT—

[3] You Know the Circumstance of y^e Brig Slute Commands that is that Cooper & Co. claim her or Jno. Cooper individually and Carns has a Bill of Sale whose attorney Thos. Ogden is—The[y] brought a Suit in Leech's Court and Leech said as it was prior to the Passage of the Act that the Cause of action arose that it could not lay in his Court without it was by Consent of Parties—

The Brig is now about to sail and unless Bates Cooper gives a Bond that John Cooper or John Cooper & Co. will be answerable for the Value of her if recovered in a Court of Law in the same manner as if She was here and that no advantage will be taken of the Vessel being permitted to go out to the Person in Possession must and will be immediately sued—Upon my telling Mr. Pugh this Day that the Person in Possession would be immediately sued unless such a Bond was given he said Mr. Bates Cooper would give such a Bond and he certainly had best.

I wish you would call on him as at the Instance of Carrs Attorney, and know if he will and if he will, have it executed without delay and if he will not give Mr. Ogden the Attorney immediate Notice that he may sue the Person in Possession I am &c

W^m. BLOUNT

April 8th 1785

J. G. Blount

Addressed: The Hon. William Blount Esquire

Readdressed: John G. Blount

Elijah Robertson⁴⁶ to William Blount

NASHVILLE May 2nd. 1785

Dear Sir/

Your letter came to hand last Saturday But find it utterly impossible to comply with your Request As Yours or Mr. Nashes warrants have never one of them come to hand nor can I give any Account when they will as we are told the Entry Taker is forbid Issuing the warrants Untill the Claimints pay up the whole of the money You are the best Judge whether this is the case or not[.] be that as it may permit me to request the favour of you to send them out by the Earliest opportunity for had they A come last fall as I expected the works might now all been in the Secretaries Office[.] I have had Choppers & Chain carriers uppon expences all Winter—with an Expectation of doing that Business but do not believe it will be possible to have the whole Compleated untill next Spring as the Indians are geting very Troublesom in that Quarter wher the most of Your lands ly. Believe me Sir it would give me Infinit pleasure to See You & thos Gentlemen You mentioned in Nash Ville next fall I am

⁴⁶Elijah Robertson was the brother of James Robertson, who settled in the Cumberland area.

happy to think you are Appointed one of the Commissioners to Treat with the Indians & hope you will Caution them Against Committing Horstilities in this Quarter of the world as they Kill^d. one man here about Two days ago. I am Sir with Esteem
Your Humble Servant

ELIJAH ROBERTSON

John Strother⁴⁷ to [John Gray Blount]

[May 3, 1785]

3^d of May—Since writing the inclosed & previous to the same being put into the post office, it accured to me that it would be important to inclose to you the N^o. of the Warn^t. of 1600 acres the property of the Bommers which I mentioned to you in a former letter as interfering with the 7200 acre tract on Spring creek—this Warrant you ought with out delay to purchase, for in the event of loseing the spring creek land, (which I do not apprehend will be the case, still) it is well to be provided against the worst, for the decisions, & people, in this country, varries in some instances, strangely—

The N^o of Warrant 387 originally Issued to Capt John Allen for 1600 acres & was located, Surveyed, & returned, but not Granted, the plat & certificate is now in the office of the Secretary of N^o Carolina & can be had by proper application—

I mentioned to you in the inclosed that the creek Indians had submited at discretion a recent letter from General [Andrew] Jackson to the Governor dated the 18th Ult; at the confluence of the Coosee & Tallapoose [2] confirms that report & further States that Gen^r. Pinkney & Col^o [Benjamin] Hawkins are appointed to treat with them, & are with him—the appointment of Hawkins is very dissatisfactory to the people of this country, & for my own part, I think it would have been equally as proper for the President to have appointed, Weatherly, a half breed creek of influence of the War party as to have appointed, a *chief of this Nation*, a full bred *Whiteman in color* in the one appointment, the government would rationally calculate, that their commissioner would make the best possible terms in favor of the In-

⁴⁷John Strother of Orange County was a surveyor of western lands. He did much of the surveying for the Blounts and gave them information as to the quality of the lands. *State Records of North Carolina*, XVI, 78.

dians & would not be disappointed. In the other—they will be disappointed for I have so bad an opinion of the man, that I think it a moral impossibility for him, in his nature, to do any thing great & good for the benefit of his country when it will be at the sacrifice of his *beloved* red brethren, of the creek Nation—

I have only this morning got an opportunity of getting the N^o of warrant & the Commissioner having been absent for a week or two & but Just returned adieu

respectfully yrs &c

JOHN STROTHER

De Marbois to [John Gray and Thomas Blount]

NEW YORK may 19th. 1785

Sir,

in consequence of your & the Governor's Letters written to me more than 5 months ago I informed the administration that remittance would be made to me in Philadelphia in the Spring for the amount of the monies due by your State to the colony of martinico. I am informed that Bills may soon arrive drawn on me for the purpose; Not having heard of you Since, I am apprehensive this business has been delayed by some unforeseen accident. You will, sir, oblige me infinitely by taking immediate measures for the discharge of the promises of your government, & I desire you would inform me as soon as you can of [2] the time when the remittances will be made: it will enable me to ascertain when & how I can honour the Drafts which I expect will soon be presented to me.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your very humble

obedient Servant

DE MARBOIS

I have given directions in philadelphia for the receipt of every payment you may direct to be made to me, & I shall soon return there./

*Thomas Blount to John Gray & Thomas Blount*WILMINGTON 23^d. May 1785

Dear Sir,

I did not reach here till this morning owing to the indisposition of Jake on the road, but am time enough to go in the first Vessel. which will not Sail until about 1st. June.⁴⁸ Warrants answer here in the purchase of Tar, pitch &c. equal with Cash—Tar cannot be had in Barter for Corn at the terms you mentioned to Jacob [Blount]. No freight can be had for the Ship here. Shall keep Jake here Some days to recover perfectly & perhaps leave him with Jacob till he goes home—that is according as my horses fare—Jacob says tell Col. [Abishai] Thomas he can get no more than 6/8 to the pound for his Certificates & that not in Money but Goods at an extravagant rate. I am

Yours

THO. BLOUNT

*Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount*WILMINGTON May 25th. 1785

Dear Sir,

I have taken passage in McDonald's ship which will sail about this day week for Cork [Ireland]—our last Letter to Rich^d. Lake⁴⁹ got timely to hand to be sent instead of that bro^t. by Jacob—no further information respecting the procedure of the Bostonians has reached this—by the bearer Jake I send home my horses but leave the Chair here for Jacob & when W^m. Blount comes in to relieve him, must bring a horse for him, it may be my Tristram if none other can be had—I forgot to request your attention to my Law matters in Edgecombe Court—pray do not omit having Hudnal's deposition taken respecting Jake [Blount's slave]—& if the suit Sugg [plans] ag^t. me should come on before my return, have Abner Robertson Summon'd in my behalf, but if possible have it put off—I am

Yours &c.

THO. BLOUNT

Addressed: Mr John G. Blount
Washington

⁴⁸Thomas Blount was on his way to Europe.

⁴⁹Richard Lake was one of the three Lake brothers (Thomas, Richard, and William Charles) who constituted a mercantile firm in Liverpool, England, and who became good business friends of the Blounts. Richard Lake was stationed in the West Indies.

*Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount*WILMINGTON June 10th. 1785

Dear Sir,

I have compleated without difficulty all necessary business here & am this moment embarking for Brunswick where the Ship lies waiting only for a fair wind—Several Merchants of this place have urged me to take Letters of introduction to their friends & Correspondents, & among them Mess^{rs}. Malletts & Mumford to the Lakes & others—the latter I took with evident marks of reluctance & a determination not to deliver—the former are all coached in the strongest recommendatory terms from the best men here, & I conceive, will do me no injury, if they do me no good—I rec^d. of Jacob Eleven hundred & twenty seven Dollars—during my stay here have lived with Grainger whose friendship & Civilities, deserve our permanent gratitude. Our interest & influence are here very great among all classes of people. some from real esteem & others from policy, would go any lengths to serve us—remember me affectionately to Sister Polly & present my good wishes to all friendly enquirers—adieu.

Yours as heretofore

THO. BLOUNT

Addressed: Mr. John G. Blount
Washington

*Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount*SHIP ANN June 25th. 1785

Dear Sir,

I have the pleasure to inform you that we are now under way & over the much dreaded flats with a fair wind, which presents us a pleasing prospect of getting well to Sea To-day—I shall not Seal my Letter until we are safe over the Bar—from the lateness of the Season I have my doubts whether it will be practicable to get back to N^o. Carolina before Christmas, admitting me to have the shortest passage & meet with no difficulty in doing the business I go on—I therefore wish to hear from you & receive your instructions by the first opportunity that offers either to Liverpool or Cork, in my last I informed you Who to direct to the care of, in case you write by way of the last mentioned place—Should

I not hear timely from you it is my intention to bring only about £2000 Sterling in dry Goods, on a presumption that you will be convinced of the propriety of importing a sufficiency to begin with from either Phil^a. or Boston—in every other particular I shall proceed agreeable to the plan concerted unless circumstances point out a necessity of changing it—[2] If I am not successful enough to effect my business in part I shall continue in Europe until the Spring to be then ready to make another effort, nor do I think it will be absolutely necessary that I should return this winter at any rate provided there should be a probability of deriving any advantage by staying—you will be obliged to send Col^o. [Abishia] Thomas to Tarborough to do the business there until I come & after he gets there might he not as well stay the whole winter & dispose of the Goods I send as [well as] them you will get on the Continent?—This is only a pl[an] of mine offer'd for your approbation—without which, I shall not presume to carry it into execution, & indeed my only motive for mentioning it, is my unwillingness to come on the Coast of America at so disagreeable a Season of the year; however to gratify your every wish is my most ardent desire, therefore a hint of your disapprobation will suffice—please drop me a word on the subject. pray take up the Note I gave Godwin for Jake when it becomes due, pardon me, for reminding you of it, for experience has taught me that you are mindful of my private business as your own—with tenderness remember me to all relations & friends & believe me—most affectionately yours

THO. BLOUNT

Addressed: Mr. John Gray Blount

Washington

To Care of Mr. Jacob Blount

Wilmington

*John Sitgreaves to John Gray Blount*⁵⁰

NEW BERN 15^t July 1785

Dear Sir

I this moment received your favor per post with Copy of a Letter to Col^o. Stevens, it gives me more sensible satisfaction than I can express that means are provided for paying off part

⁵⁰This letter gives a good illustration of the difficulties facing North Carolinians who tried to represent the state in Congress.

of that Note, I say part because I find by the Acc^o. of Sales of the Pitch which came with Spaight yesterday that it will fall much short of the sum we expected wou'd be raised by it. a Copy I have enclosed for your *Amusement*, the loss on it tho' Considerable is not equal to the disappointment it has occasioned,—this I think will fully justify me in saying that my Northern Expedition was unlucky to me, when I take into Account my loss of time, unavoidable Expence that I was at, Misfortunes at homes &c &c it was a bad Speculation If the public are much longer served in that Appointment I think the persons who [2] who fill it will be more patriotic & shew more Confidence in the State than I think it has a right to expect.—

As soon as I received this Acc^o of Sales & found that the neat proceeds wou'd not be sufficient with the Bill for 250 Dollars to take up the Note I had a thought of writing to you & requesting you to enlarge the Am^o. of the Bill if possible, not knowing you had drawn & sent them, I have 50 or 60 £ in paper Money by me which I shou'd be very glad to apply towards making a farther remittance to New York, if it shou'd fall in your way to do it conveniently you will oblige me very much by doing it, it would be better I suppose to purchase a Bill on the Northward at a very high price, than make any farther Experiments in pitch. giving ten or even Eleven shillings for a Dollar there wou'd be excellent Bargaining compared to those Sales.

It gives me pain to be so troublesome [3] to you on my Affairs I have no plea of Apology but that of Necessity since I saw you I received Letters from Stevens & Shaw that seem to express some uneasiness least I shou'd not remit them payment. this you will readily conceive causes me no little uneasiness & consequently occasions additional trouble to you from me—

Spaight tells me that Money is exceeding scarce to the Northward particularly in Phil^a. which in some Measure proceeds from the Bank having stopped discounting he thinks pork wou'd answer as well as any thing; altho' the pork he had at New York & which he shipped from thence to Phil^a. was not sold when he came away.

I shall tell him about the Bath purse

My Comp^s. to M^{rs}. Blount.

Yours sincerely

JN^o. SITGREAVES

J G. Blount Esq^r.

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Merchant
Washington
Major Wanderbush

*Richard Caswell to the Marquis de Marbois*⁵¹
Copy

NO CAROLINA KINSTON 23^d July 1785

Sir

I had the Honor to receive your Letter of the 16th of April last, some time passed, and would have done myself the pleasure of Answering it before this, had I been able to learn with certainty the steps which had been taken respecting the Debit due by this State to the Government of Martinique, this I was not Capable of effecting untill application was made to my Predecessor in office [Alexander Martin] who lives about two hundred miles from me However I have at length learned, that Warrants have been Granted on our Treasury in favor of Messers John Gray & Thos Blount to enable them to purchase & remit of the produce of this Country to Philadelphia, but for a very inadequate sum, to discharge the Debt, the remainder I shall draw for and use every means in my power to prevail on these Gent^m. to remit to Philadelphia as speedily as possible, sufficient of the produce to pay the Debt, but our Treasury I fear is in so low a State as not to afford immediate Aid, be this as it may the best that can be done by me shall be effected. I thank you Sir, for your Congratulations on my advancement to the Government of this State.

Permit me to Congratulate you on the Happiness his most Christian Majesty [2] Majesty and all his Subjects enjoy in the Birth of a second Prince, this has been announced to me by our Minister for Foreign Affairs, and as it will afford singular Pleasure to the Citizens of this State, I have issued a Proclamation notifying the same.

with great respect & Consideration

I am, Sir,

your most obed^t & very humble

Servt

R^d. CASWELL

⁵¹Legislative Papers, July 28, 1785.

Copy of a Letter to Monseur de Marbois in Answer to his of 16 April 1785

KINSTON 23th July
1785

M de Marbois

William Blount to John Gray Blount

PINEY GROVE August 5th 1785

I should have been glad to have heard a Word or two respecting my Warrant that was sent to Edenton—I go to New Bern on Tuesday if not Monday about the Business with Ogden when I was last in Town he told me that He wanted to sell half the Old Agatha [a vessel] as he is now sole Owner & wanted to Know if you would purchase the Half of her. I told him that I thought not but upon second thoughts I have judged it best to mention it to you for you to consider if it will not be best to take the Half of her say at Cost & Charges, tho' you will have to make some advances for Seamen, Victuals, Lightrage &c to get her out—If you don't purchase the Half She must go out the whole of the Property of T & T. [Titus & Thomas] Ogden—If you should think best to take any Part had you not best come over the ensuing weeke to New Bern & make the Bargain [2] and the necessary Arrangements yourself or if You thinke more proper which I shall not thinke so well, You may write me your Opinion by the next Post or sooner if Opportunity should serve.—Thomas [H.] Blount on Yesterday morning delivered upwards of 50,000 feet of Plank & Scantling at New Bern to Haynes. Haynes when last I saw him said he was in doubt whether he had engaged any Staves or not of you. I told him that he had engaged either 30 or 40,000 of you and that they were ready at the Place agreeable to Contract with which he appeared quite satisfied—He talks of wanting 50,000 feet more Plank & Scantling in ten Weeks at N. Bern at the same price I suppose, which I have told him He can have supposing the most of it can be sawed here by that Time & the rest purchased of Mr. Lafferty & So' at a loss I count on it being agreeable to you [3] and pays up a hard mony Debt on this Head I wish your Opinion—

As I certainly set off for the Indian Treaty on the 1st. day of September and *between ourselves* I believe I shall from the

Treaty proceed to New York via Charleston tho' this I shall not mention before I leave home.

This being the Case I should prefer the House building being put off at N Bern another year if convenient as I have my Fears that the Workmen who must live in my House will not be so well attended to as was I at Home but if Palmer cant be put off without a disadvantage let me Know and I will make ready for his People⁵² I am,

Your's &c
W^m. BLOUNT
to
J. G. BLOUNT

[4] Herewith is Flowers Claim against the Estate of Robert Salter which I believe is just and I believe if you have Mony to pay it. or to discount it or otherwise save it that it will be so much clear to me as I have a Claim to a greater am^t. on Kennon's Estate with which Flowers is perfectly acquainted as we spoke on the Subject the last Time I was at Wilmington, I will give a Receipt if that will do of having red^d. the Mony for Flowers at any Time you please—

Richard Caswell to William Blount

KINSTON 16th. August 1785

Dear Sir

Your favor of the 14th. I had the Honor to receive yesterday, the Time, you mention, which you expected I should be at Newbern, is a Week later than that fixed on when you was present, indeed you sayd you would be there for two Weeks before and would have a piece of business which was to be adjusted in Mess^{rs}. Ogdins house with me, in a proper train, this was not only an inducement to me to go there at the Time but also to Summon the Council to attend on Public business, indeed I expected to have stood in need of their advice respecting your agency which I supposed, so far as related to my office, would have been compleated there, but in both I was disappointed, and on me disappointments bear Heavier than I beleive they do on some others (However)

⁵²William Blount was living at Piney Grove at this time. He seems to have planned to build a home in New Bern, but he apparently abandoned that idea and later made his home in Greenville.

[2] However, I shall attempt to get the Council together here on Monday next, sooner is not to be expected as the election intervenes, when if you can conveniently attend P[er]haps it may be an advantage to have explanations of the Scheme now proposed respecting the Indian Goods & the Treaty, if it shall not be convenient for you I will forward immediately after obtaining the Advice of the Council, their Resolutions respecting these matters to you, in the mean Time I take the Liberty of informing you that the plan proposed appears to me elligible, but I shall be under a necessity of sending an express to Washington to know the amount of the Goods as to Value for you Know it will be imprudent and indeed no[t] justifiable to exceed the Grant of the Legislature, I had written to Mr. J. G. Blount some Weeks ago on this head, but have not been favored with his answer. I have the Honor to be with great esteem

Sir, Your Most Obedient &c

Very humble Servant

R CASWELL

Hon. W^m. Blount esq^r.

Addressed: The Honorable William Blount esq^r.

Piney Grove

*Richard Caswell to John Gray Blount*⁵³

KINSTON 16th August 1785

Dear Sir,

I did myself the pleasure of writing to you some Time passed respecting the quantity & value of the Goods purchased by your House at the instance of Governor Martin for the Indians, and altho Mr P. White did not, on his arrival at Washington, deliver the Letter, I flatter myself you might have received it so as that I might have been favored with your answer before this—but I have not heard from you on that subject, therefore the Bearer goes to you

by him you will be pleased to inform me, the weight of the packages (the No. I have from Col W. Blount) the quantity of the Goods & amnt. for this purpose if you can furnish a Copy of the invoice will be best, and whether the whole Amnt. is paid or not it is necessary I should know, and if it is not too Trouble-

⁵³Legislative Papers, August 16, 1785.

some if the Packages could be opened & examined to know if the Goods are not eaten by moths or otherwise damaged, it would give me Satisfaction to know, as I expect shortly to take some measures for the Transporting and delivery of the Goods, the plan lately communicated to you by Col. W Blount. P[er]haps may be adopted, the Council is to meet on that subject Monday next at this place any information you Can give me on this head I shall be thankfull for;

I am advised to draw on the Treasury in favor of your House for a sum sufficient to compleat the purchase of produce to be remitted in discharge of the State Debt to the Government of Martineque, your Estimate is therefore necessary, and an error Col W Blount, says in your Letter respecting Gov^r Martins Drafts is to be corrected, He says, it should be pounds where you say Dollars, with great Esteem

I am, Dr. Sir, your most obed^t Servt

J G Blount

R CASWELL

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

EDENTON 21st Aug^t. 1785

Dear Sir

When I came to the Ferry on Sunday morning the Boat was on this Side whence I could not cross till on Monday. I soon found that Electioneering was carry'd on with great Zeal in favour of Mr [Stephen] Cabarus for this Town who is finally chosen. It seems that Mr [Michael] Payne had last Year said he would take care that Mr Cabarrus should not go again this irritated his original advocates who have several months ago obtained Promises as they have said from the bulk of the Electors to vote for their Man.⁵⁴ On Tuesday Evening I was told that a couple of Gentlemen had on that day canvased all the Town over and on Wednesday some Gentlemen for the first time informed the Inhabitants in Gen^l. that I was willing to serve if chosen, that Information is said to have occasioned much warmth for it was followed by charges of positive falsehoods on the Part of Mr. C's Friends, some of whom had alledged that I wished to retire from public Service. Before the next Evening it was pretty well understood that two thirds of the freemen intended to vote for me & to clinch the matter they proposed to flog some of the other

⁵⁴See Connor, *Manual*, 555, 557, for the outcome of the election.

Side who who muttered the charge of versatility. I was much surprised at the Zeal of some Persons from whom I did not expect activity nor even a vote. A gentleman with whom I had never exchanged three sentences had not only been active among People whom I didn't know but he had actually engaged some of his countrymen with Toledo trusty of stubborn Hickory to keep the Peace during the Poll. On the morning of the Election the prospect was not a peaceable one, it [2] it was very clear that I should be elected, and perfectly clear that several Gentlemen would get a cursed flogging who had in support of the other Candidate been a little impertinent on the Subject of desertion as they call it. What was to be done. I was told that the opposite Party had uniformly admitted that their man was not the fittest to serve the public. They admitted too when being pressed to set him up for the County that he could not command a single vote in it. My desire to preserve the Peace of the Town was superior—to my desire of mortifying an unimportant antagonist. I declined standing for the Town and offered for a commoner for the County I started one of three or four. On casting up the Ballots it appear'd that I had Every vote in the County except one. Nor am I left to guess who is the only man who refused his vote, for he call'd on me yesterday Evening to make an Apologie declaring that he did it ignorantly not knowing that I was the Person whom he had heard his Neighbours speak of with so much respect. Clem^t. Hall is the other commoner for the County, he was hard & almost equally run by Tho^s. Vail: One Narcum⁵⁵ had very few votes. Boritz⁵⁶ was started against Payne for the Senate and Borety had six Votes. Payne I think had above sixty. On the whole you will admit that I have no reason to be mortified by the Result of this Tryal of Parliamentary Interest. We are told that Gen^l. Skinner⁵⁷ is one of the Members for Perquimins & Pasquotank Tho^s. Harvey one of the Members for his County [Perquimans]. By the next I hope to answer your Law Questions, hitherto I have not had Time.

I wish that by the assistance of your Brother W^m or your Brother in Law Mr [Abner] Neal you would try to engage for me a chamber where I may lodge during the Cessions of the assembly. I wish there to be no other person in the same Chamber—This is the only preliminary Agreem^t. Viz a Bed & chamber to myself. As to other circumstances I would rather that it

⁵⁵Probably Frederick Norcum, who represented the county later.

⁵⁶William Boritz was a state senator in 1784. Connor, *Manual*, 567.

⁵⁷Brigadier General William Skinner of Perquimans was in the senate in 1785.

should not be in a Hous—where many People lodged. I do [3] not care whether there is another [lodger]. As to victuals I would dine at a Tavern if they would rather have it so, but as I presume that most People eat some Victuals and that meal among others which we call dinner And believing that I care full as little as any of them does what I Eat probably I shall be indulged to dine with the Family.

I am with great Regard

Dr Sir Your obed^t hble Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

J G Blount Esqr

Addressed: John Blount Esqr

Mercht.

Washington

*Thomas Blount to [John Gray Blount & Thomas Blount,
Merchants]*

LIVERPOOL 25th. Aug^t. 1785

Gentlemen

I have the pleasure to inform you that after a passage of 46 days I arrived safe at Cork where I stayed from necessity 4 days, & in two more reach'd this place—without delay I made known my business & plan to the house of Thomas, Richard & William Charles Lakes who are Gentlemen of business, much cleverness & unblemished Character; but as we had never been mentioned to them by their Richard Lake whose last Letter bears date 20th June, They could not accede to my proposition—it being they said, an invariable maxim with them to execute no order for goods from any Merchants of America without prompt payment for nearly or quite one half the amount or a Credit already established in England.

This answer, had they said nothing more, would have determined me (as Mr. Felfair was not at home nor expected in less than six weeks) to go immediately to Bristol & try Mr. Cru-ger; but they added that a Jamaica [2] Jamaica packet was daily expected and by which should their brother Richard mention us in such terms as I told them we had reason to believe he would, they would supply us—on this I resolved to wait the event of a few days, & immediately (that no time might be lost) wrote to my Virginia acquaintance Mr. Robert Crew now of London;

informed him of my business & requested to know whether it would be consistent with his System of business to form a connection with us on the terms proposed—His answer has not yet come to hand, if, when it does, it should be in the negative, & in the interim no advices arrive from Jamaica—I shall delay no time in getting to Bristol—but am sorry to inform you that the remittances, from even the best Houses in America, have been so very short of the expectations of their Creditors throughout this Country (owing partly to the high duty on & low prices of our produce) that I fear it will be impracticable to effect the plan of my Voyage—such is my opinion of the matter—But be assured [3] I am ever mindful of the object in view & nothing shall or can divert My attention from it for a moment what is in my power to do for our interest, shall not remain undone—Should all my exertions prove ineffectual I shall await in this Country your further Commands, presuming you will next spring turn your views to Holland which, in my humble opinion, if far the most eligible plan of Commerce the Americans can adopt, for the many devices of hampering them in their Trade to England & its Dependents, are to you & every other person who has not been here inconceivable—a Captain of an American Vessel on coming into a British port must use the utmost caution to save her from seizure; he must not omit to report every article on board, either Cargo or Mens privilege, for the discovery of even ten hands of Tobacco or anything else to that amount over & above (& diligent search will surely be made) will be sufficient pleas—for this reason, I do most ardently wish to see the American [4] Ports shut against British Vessels, what I think would make the Dutch & Danish West India Islands the Receptacle of our produce & British Manufactures & afford us an equal advantage in the carrying Trade & until the Americans do take this step or some other, to Counteract the British Navigation Law they must forever carry on a losing Trade with this Country—for trade with it, you know they will at all events—

The smuggling trade on the Coast of Ireland is profitable & not very dangerous for a small fast sailing Vessel—a Captain who is clever & acquainted with the Coast, might dispose of the Cargo of such a Vessel say 60 to 80 hh^{ds}. Tobacco for Guineas in hand paid at 6^d to 8^d sterling P^{ct}., in the course of 48 hours—hundreds of boats are continually out on the watch for that purpose—The money is paid before the Tobacco is delivered in the boats, which receive it alongside at the distance of one or per-

haps two leagues from land—To effect a plan of this kind you will readily perceive the necessity of having many Clearances & know how they ought to be made [5] be made—inclosed I send you the prices Current of our most valuable Exports & annex'd the Duties payable thereon—by which you'll see that nothing will answer better than pitch but it must be of the best quality for the Carolina pitch has not been so good a Character here as the Virginia—The fault they complain of, is, that it is not hard enough—In Ireland (I mean Cork) I became acquainted with the Houses of Penroses & Fisher—& Mr. Reuben Harvey to each, I gave one of our circular Letters.—They are all Quakers of capital fortune & amiable Character, who publicly avowed their partiality for Americans in time of War & befriended many of them—with the latter I agreed on a Correspondence—you'll say he is an *Irishman*—true he is—but very different from any of your acquaintance—August 29th.—I have received Mr. Crews [Cru-ger's?] answer in which he assures me that my proposition was such as, from the [6] the Character of our House & his knowledge of me, he would very gladly accede to was it in his power; but so much has he been disappointed in Remittances from the most able houses in Virginia, that he is obliged to Stop business—As soon as he can begin again he offers us his best Services—this is a Circumstance that strengthens my opinion that a Credit cannot be obtained—The Merchants of this Country are awaked to a sense of their error in Crediting the Americans by their amazing sufferings—Many of them acted at first very incautiously, but they are all now on the other extreme—I think it a misfortune to us that we ever thought of importing Goods from this Country, for undoubtedly we can purchase them on better terms on the Continent, unless we had ready Money to do it with—The Jamaica packet has not arrived but another Vessel which left there the 5th. July has—The Lakes rec^d. [7] no Letters nor did the Captain see or hear any thing of our Brig—There has also arrived here a Ship from Dominica which left it as late as the 6th of July & no account of Captain M^c. Daniel—Tomorrow I take Coach for Bristol where I wish I had grounds to hope for better success—from thence will write you by first opportunity—Old Dollars are worth only 4/2 & new ones 4/1—in Cash or 1¼^d more in Goods or Bills at two Months—French Crowns 4/7

—Cash—4/8¼ Bills—Naval Stores are not in demand[.] Good qualities Tobacco is the best article to Command Cash—

I am

As usual

Yours

THO. BLOUNT

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

LIVERPOOL AUG^t. 29th. 1785

Dear Sir,

You know I left home with a determination not to return this winter without Goods & from my ill success here begin to think I shall be obliged to stay away—should that be the case let me request that to the innumerable favors you have already done me you will add another great one—that is, to have my private Debts paid when they become due to effect which dispose of any part of my property as you may think best—Let me also entreat your attention to Lewis Irwin to whom I am guardian I mean to his education in particular—My Sister Harvey⁵⁸ can furnish you with an Acco^t. of his Estate which I doubt not but Mr. E. [Edward] Hall would cheerfully take charge of—I write him on the Subject. I now enjoy better health than I have done for 2 years I began to mend [2] the first week I got to Sea & have continued mending ever since—Remember me affectionately to all our family & request my Sister Harvey to offer my respects to all my Tarborough friends—pray write me often. A Letter directed to Liverpool, Bristol or London will get safe to hand—I saw Mrs Cooper & Doctr. Tankard at Cork—Mr Cooper was gone to Bristol—they had a passage of only 20 days—I am

Your affectionate

Brother

THO. BLOUNT

Addressed: Mr. John G Blount

Washington

Nº. Carolina

⁵⁸Ann Blount Harvey.

*Richard Caswell to William Blount*N^o. CAROLINA, KINSTON 3^d. Sept^r. 1785

Sir.

Herewith you will receive a Commission appointing you Agent for this State to Attend y^e. Treaty's to be held by Commissioners appointed by Congress With the Cherokees and other Southern Indians.

I am therefore to request you will repair to Galphinston in the State of Georgia in Time to be present at the Treaty to be held by the said Commissioners there, with the Creek Indians on the third Monday in September Instant, and from thence, after the business of the Treaty being Compleated, you will proceed to the Treaty to be held on Keowie in the State of North Carolina. At each of Which Treaties, as the Representative Or Agent of the State, you will be pleased to use your best endeavors to Advance the Interest of the State, and prevent any encroachment, upon the Territory or Liberties (of) [2] of the same.

As I have nothing particularly to recommend to your Attention, at present, I can only add that your Country has the Utmost relyance on your Integrity and Abilities and that I have the Strongest confidence in your inclination to serve her in this business, in which I wish you the greatest Success.

You will be pleased to make me a Report of your proceedings in Time to be laid before the General Assembly in November next.

With great respect & esteem

I have the Honour to be
Sir, Your Most Obedient &
Very humble Servant
R^d CASWELL

The Hon'ble

William Blount Esq^r.

*Thomas Blount to [John Gray and Thomas Blount, Merchants]*BRISTOL Septem^r. 5th. 1785

Gentlemen,

I wrote you on the 25th. Ult. by Ship Rebecca Cap^t. Haydon, via Philadelphia & informed you that owing to the bad remit-

tances from America, the House of Lakes would not execute orders from thence on Credit for any persons whatever & Such I find is the unanimous determination of all the merchants in this country—

I arrived here yesterday & to-day applied to Mr. Cruger who received me with marks of the greatest respect & assured me upon his honour that from our general Character & his Knowledge of our Candour, ability & probity, there are no men in America whose order he would execute on Credit with more Chearfulness; but that he has been so cruelly used by the Gentlemen of America whose orders he has already complied with, that he is no longer able to obtain a Credit with the manufacturers He has not failed nor will not tho' he has furnished [2] Goods to America to amot. of upwards of £200,000 & received no remittance—thus you see what a foundation he stands on—But most other American Merchants have failed or must inevitably fail in a short time—you would be amazed to hear of the villainy of the Merchants in America—even the great Robert Morris⁵⁹ has made no remittance—I must now inform you that I cannot obtain a Credit, & believe me it is without vanity I say, our House has as good a reputation as any American House can have—The manufacturers will not give Credit to any man concerned in the American business—Under these circumstances I determine to await in this Country your further instructions & employ my time in visiting the manufacturing Towns that I may learn to purchase a Cargo to advantage with ready money, which I strenuously recommend to you to remit me by next spring (if you do not prefer a Trade with Holland) if possible—as [3] a very great discount is allowed on it I Hope & think we shall experience no great disadvantage from my disappointment—Since I left Liverpool the Jamaica packet has arrived—whether Richard Lake has wrote his brothers concerning us or our Brig—I know not but shall hear in the course of 3 or 4 days—If he has in such manner as we expect I will Charter a Vessel at Liverpool such as you advised and send to you with Salt & £500 Goods[.] the Salt will cost about 5½^d P Bush^l. & I will put on board about 5000 Bush^{ls}. if she comes to you at all she will sail by 1st. of Octo. The Charter will be about £80 P Month for a Vessel of 200

⁵⁹Robert Morris, merchant, shipper, and land speculator, of Philadelphia. He played an important part in the American Revolution, both in procurement and as a financier. Land speculation resulted in his failure. He was deeply interested in North Carolina lands and was concerned in the Blount speculations. (See letters of David Allison in the John Gray Blount Papers.) He is said to have had over 717,000 acres of land in North Carolina. *The News and Observer* (Raleigh), April 26, 1936.

Tons the owner to man & find her—Mr. Cruger informs me that Mr Cooper told him he had two Ships to sail from Carolina the 1st. of this Month loaded for this place & that Mr. Blackledge (of whom he complains has sent him an order for Goods to Amot. of £15000 Sterling to be put on board the first of them that arrives—& promises immediate payment for them [4] The order he will not execute—He pressed me hard to inform him in Confidence of the Character & circumstances of the above named Gentlemen—I evaded the question by saying I believed them honest men—Mr. Mullett is now in america dunning his & Mr Crugers Debtors, American Merchants are laughed at & aspersed by all others & so odious is the Character of an American that I am ashamed almost to confess myself one—I am allowed only half an hour to write this which is a duplicate of one sent via Norfolk—By next opportunity & every one that may offer will write fully, Remember me to all friends, I am

affectionately

Yours

THO. BLOUNT

N.B. Prices here nearly as at Liverpool which I enclosed you—If you send a vessel to this Country Liverpool is the best place or this in preference to London. Pray write me often—I am in perfect health.

William Blount to John Gray Blount

CAMPDEN September 12th, 1785

I arrived here last Night all well, rest here today and set out for Augusta in the Morning the distance is 120 Miles I expect to arrive there on the 15th, from Augusta to Golphinston is distant about 60 Miles so that I have plenty of Time to reach it before the Treaty commences⁶⁰

To this place the distance is about 270 Miles the Roads very bad and Accomodations none at all or as near it as may be for Man or Horse to live.—As I passed through Fayette Ville I saw Winslow We talked Nothing about the debt due to you from Himself & Eccles but We talked about the debt due from himself to Mess^{rs}. Ogdens, the Sum He owes them is about 240 or 250 £ for which they sued him to the last Superior Court at New Bern

⁶⁰See William Blount to Governor Richard Caswell, Piney Grove, July 3, 1785; *State Records of North Carolina*, XVII, 479.

upon the Writs being served he wrote me by Express and beg'd me to stop the Suit with Ogdens and that He would pay it off sooner than it could be recovered by law and I did prevail on Thomas Ogden to engage to dismiss the Suit on assuring him that I was confident Winslow would pay him sooner if he dismissed it than he could recover and I beleive I told him I would agree the Debt should be charge to me if Winslow should prove unable to pay it and I am certain he said he would do so tho I am not certain that I agreed to it but perhaps I did [2] and if I did or if he thinks I did so best for Winslow is ready to pay it in Bills on Barbadoes which I believe are perfectly good and I think it will be wise to get Mony out of Ogdens Hands if we can

If Winslow has not been to see you on the above business I suppose he soon will and will give you the Bills on your engaging to become answerable to Ogden which I have assured him you will do, He offers us the Bills in preference to Ogden because he considers it will Serve Us who have been his Friends in stopping the Suit with Ogdens. Ogden I know thinks Winslow had [become] I might say insolvent and He should not be undeceived untill you get the Business so settled as for him to take us for Payment of his debt. You may say I purchased lots as I passed on, the only Way I could save myself as I was his Surety or something like that.—The Sheriff of Dobbs Mr. Robert White will pay you on my a/c I expect in a Short Time about £40. I owe Cap^t. Daves for which he has my Note about £50 which I wish you to settle with him I believe it may be done in a Warrant.—I did not find it convenient to settle with the Governor what quantity of land He should have, He has got an account of all the Entries, made by me including those in which Nash & Porterfield are interested. My Copy I have lost unless you have it [3] Child promised me that He would receive my Notes from the Entry Taker as Certificates if We could not do better. He says he wishes much to serve me but he is an obstinate Tool. you must attend to him and stand by him notwithstanding at the next Assembly if He should be attacked. The Entry Taker I am sure will not be able to settle up before the Seting of the [* *]

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By the Court of Dobbs in the year 1783 April it was ordered that I should pay the Mony I had in my Hands as Admr. of Gilbert Kerr to the Commissioners of Confiscation Viz Richard Caswell, Charles Markland & in Specie Certificates which I

⁶¹This manuscript is badly mutilated.

bilged by the Gale we had here yesterday.

Please make my Comp^s. to M^{rs} Blount & Mr Harvey

I am D^r Sir

Yours

JN^o. SITGREAVES

Your Father went with us to Beaufort & returned home this Morning.

The power of Attorney from Statia was proved in our Court it is not yet recorded.

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

EDENTON 26th Sept^r 1785

Dear Sir

On this day Week I hinted that a second Deluge was likely to swallow up your friend Barry. Mr. Rose the Bearer of this had just announced to me that being Mr Barry's Patron he had large Demands against him & that being suspicious of his intending no fair gain by his Jamaica Expedition he proposed to attach his Property. This must have cut you out for your Writ, even if it had been served, would have been left behind by such summary Process. And Mr Rose being possessed of the sole Proof (a Letter) on which suspicions to warrant an attachment could be founded, had of course the advantages in his Hand. My present opinion is that Mr Rose had best not attach, for if he attaches Mr Barry may hear of it and certainly would not return from Jamaica, but would sequester all the Property at present in his Hands, which is considerable; if he does not attach, the Property which is in this state may nevertheless be pretty safe from sequestration and perhaps Mr Barry may return from Jamaica, with goods West India Produce to some Amount which [2] which may afterward be of Use both to Mr Rose and yourself. Mr Rose however is aware that if he does not attach you may do that Business in the interim whence he will lose the advantage which is now in his Power. On this Subject he wishes to know your sentiments believing that by mutual Agreement a Plan may be adopted, profitable to both.

I am with great Regard

D^r Sir

Your obed^t Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

J G Blount Esq^r.

*Thomas Blount to John Gray & Thomas Blount, Merchants*LONDON September 26th. 1785

Gentlemen,

After vainly attempting the Execution of our plan⁶² at Liverpool & Bristol (from both which places I wrote you & mentioned the Causes of my failure) I proceeded to this place, where I arrived on the 11th Ins^t. & found American Credit at so low an ebb that the best established Houses that have been concerned in that Business could not Ship Goods to America but at the advanced price of from 15 to 20 P Ct. because they have not, nor cannot gain the Confidence of the Manufacturers, whose suspicions are justly roused to the highest pitch by the amazing number of Bankruptcies that happen almost daily in that line—The villainous Conduct of some Americans (I may say most of them) who came over immediately after the conclusion of the war & got largely into business here, has conspired with the general want of punctuality in the Merchants of our Country, to fix on the whole Nation a stigma of Dishonesty which Time itself will scarcely be able to obliterate—

among other instances of such Conduct is a very recent one in my acquaintance. R. C. who a few days ago convened his Creditors & obliged them, without convincing them of his [2] his having suffer'd the smallest loss, to Compound for 16/. in the pound & allow him ten Months to give Security for the payment of it in two years—every American that appears here in a Mercantile character is suspected of having dishonorable views & of course must experience contemptuous treatment—Being thus disagreeably situated I have not ventured to make my business known to any man here, but determined to stay in the Country till I hear from you, relying on your good judgment for the formation of some plan of business this way by which I may be enabled to convince the Rascals that I came not to ask or receive favors at their hands—

Reports says (& I believe truly, because it is corroborated by the Assertion of an American Gentleman immediately from there) that Civil Discord & Faction rage with great violence throughout the States of Holland, which are daily threaten'd with an Invasion from the Emperor of Germany—Should such a War take place (and it is consider'd as the inevitable consequence of what has already happened) the powers of France &

⁶²An attempt to make commercial arrangements, particularly to secure credit.

England will doubtless be engaged in it how far such an event might operate for or against our plan of negotiating a Loan in Holland I am at a loss to determine, but incline to [3] think it would be practicable even then at 5P^rC^t on recommendatory Letters from the Minister & such others as are obtainable, & my reason for thinking so, is M^r Crew tells me he lately had an offer of Money there at 4P C^t. provided he would give up his Consignments to the Senders—at any rate the attempt will be worth the cost of it—But for fear it might fail I would recommend the sending a Cargo of Tobacco in the Spring to L'Orient⁶³ where it is now worth from 38 to 45 Livres It is the best market for that commodity in Europe & long has been—Should you approve this measure by all means procure Insurance at Philadelphia for it cannot be had here & there is absolutely real danger to be apprehended from the Algerines—

I shall go from hence in a few days to Liverpool where, because I can live cheapest & be most respected, shall stay the greatest part of my time while in England—To that place therefore you'll please direct for me to the care of Tho. Rich^d. & W^m. Charles Lakes who have uniformly treated me with the utmost respect. & thereby rendered themselves worthy of the preference to any business we may have at that place—& I think that port calculated to answer our [4] Trade as well or better than any in England because it lies contiguous to many capital Manufacturing Towns; the prices of Most of our produce, particularly Tob^o, equally good & the charges of Commissions, Brokerage &c. less—here they are so numerous & exorbitant that the best qualified Tob^o. will not nett more than 21½^d P^{wt}. & the second quality seldom more than £ 7. P Hh^d. of 1000^{wt}.—This, from the prices generally quoted by the Merchants here to their Correspondents, & the printed prices Current inclosed, you would not infer or perhaps incline to believe from any other person, but I communicate it as a truth—

I have mentioned my business to the Lakes & M^r. Cruger only, all of whom [I] have reason to believe are my friends—Major Graingers friend M^r. Spann to whom I had also a friendly letter from M^r. Charles Phillips, did not vouchsafe to shew me his house, but because an american, treated me with unparallel'd disrespect—a circumstance that deter'd me from delivering any introductory Letters after—a packet sails monthly from New York & Charlestown to this place & I hope you will not omit

⁶³A French port.

writing me by all opportunities for I am extremely anxious to hear from you—it is a pleasure I have not yet had—(continued)
 [5] Mr. Richard Lakes' last Letter to his Brothers bears date the 20th July in which he omitted mentioning our House—surely our Letters to him on the subject must have miscarried which is an unfortunate circumstance to us for his recommendation would certainly be very strictly attended to.—By a Captain Hunt whom I saw at Bristol from Dominica I was informed of Captain Mc.-Daniels' embarrassment there & his failure of getting to Jamaica. Whale Oyle will not bear shipping but in English bottoms—pray what success in that way? I inclose you a Bill of freight from hence to Virginia & would send a News-paper but they are filled with such absurdities & contradictions as are not worth the trouble of reading—I Know nothing more worth Communicating—Therefore with a request that you will please give the necessary directions for the management of my private business, remain

as ever heretofore

Yours &^{etc.}

THO. BLOUNT

My Compliments to all enquiring friends & your family particularly

Addressed: Messrs. John G. & Tho. Blount

Merchts.

Washington

N^o. Carolina

John Sevier⁶⁴ to William Blount

WASHINGTON⁶⁵ 7th Octo. 1785

Dr. Sir/

I have been in doubts of your being at home, thinking perhaps you would be in Georgia at Treaty.

I have Wrote particularly to Governor Caswell Concerning the Bent,⁶⁶ I have Most exalted Notions of Our success, and have Matters I hope Quite Safe, and almost in Our Own hands as to

⁶⁴John Sevier (1745-1815) was an early migrant from Virginia to the East Tennessee area. He was a soldier, highly renowned as an Indian fighter; founder of the state of Franklin; and a great political, as well as social, influence on the frontier. He was associated with William Blount in land speculations and was a member of the Muscle Shoals land company. Arthur Whitaker, "John Sevier," *Dictionary of American Biography*, XVI (1943), 602-604.

⁶⁵Washington County, North Carolina, in the Tennessee area.

⁶⁶The "bend" of the Tennessee River in the Muscle Shoals area.

the Setling that Rich and fertile Country—

We Shall Most Certainly Set out from Mouth of french broad on or about the 10th of Next Month. With a party Sufficient for the Buisiness—Col^{ls}. Downs and herd, and also [John] Donaldson Is here, which is all the Commissioners that will Attend at this time—Beg leave to refer you to Governor Caswell for farther particulars.

I suppose Much Will be said in your Assembly Respecting our New State⁶⁷—I hope there Will be Gentlemen enough in that body possessed of Just and Liberal principles. to Support and Defend Any thing that will be Said against Us.

I have the honour to be With Greate
Respect and Esteem Your
Most obed^t. Hbl Serv^t.

JOHN SEVIER

Col^o. Blount

Poindexter Tulloch to John Gray Blount

SUNBURY⁶⁸ Octobr. 18th. 1785

Sir

I am happy to have it in my Power to Acquaint you what parte of The world I am in, tho it is but a small satisfaction, to what it Ought to be to you; but on all Occations I think it best to be Canded, I have been Indebted to you & your brother A Sum of Money a Considerable Time and Must Confess that it has been my Bad Conduct that has prevented my Making Paym^t. but Rest Assured it is my Earnest Intention to pay as soon as I have it in my power But doe Not think it will be in a less Time then Three Years, after Stateing my bussiness in N^o. Carolina I Discovered that I was Totally Ruined, [2] And my Credit Done, therefore thought It was time to Try a Nother Country And Since I Came to this State Every Shilling of property I have made myself possesed off I have purchased Land Warrents with & had the land Surveyed to the Southw^d. of Alamataha [Altamaha] Which will Certainly be Valueable in the Course of 2 or 3

⁶⁷The state of Franklin.

⁶⁸Sunbury, Georgia, "Located upon high ground on the south side of Midway, 12 miles from the sea [on the Altamaha], . . . [it] became the central shipping point for the entire section as well as the favorite residence for the malaria-ridden planters." In the early 1770's Sunbury was thought to rival Savannah as a commercial center. James Etheridge Callaway, *The Early Settlements of Georgia* (Athens: The University of Georgia Press, 1948), 45.

years when I Shall Make sale of them & Return & pay All I am Oweing I am Sir With Respect Your Obt.

Serv^t.

POINDEXTER TULLOCH

NB if you dont leave Savannah till Sunday I shall see you, what I am Oweing of You please not Mention P T

Addressed: Mr. John Gray Blount

Washington

Far^d. Capt. Howell

Lachlan McIntosh to William Blount

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

[N. D.]

Sir

I am directed by the Board of Commissioners appointed to explore the lands on the Tanasee to transmit to you a State of their Reasons for postponeing your appointment to the command of the Militia in that Country. I flatter myself the measure will meet with your concurence as a wish to avoid giving Room for censure only led them to adopt the Idea—

I Have the Honor to be

Sir with the Most perfect

Esteem your M^t Obt

Huble Servt

LACHⁿ MCINTOSH

Colo Blount

Addressed: William Blount Esquire
Savannah

Thomas Blount to [John Gray And Thomas Blount Merchants]

LONDON Octo. 18th 1785

Gentlemen,

Your favor of the 13th July came this day to hand which affords me the highest satisfaction imaginable being the first I have had the pleasure of receiving from you since my arrival in this Country—I have written you fully from Liverpool Bristol & this place of my failure at each & the reasons why no person

whatever circumstanced as I am, could have succeeded; so that, as in all probability you have received my first, you will not be surprized at the Contents of this—Did you but know as well as I do the situation of the Trade of this Country in general & particularly that to America, you would heartily rejoice with me in our disappointment, not withstanding the apparent great advantage in having a large well chosen assortment of Goods this Winter in Carolina.

For the obstacles to an Americans obtaining a Credit here let me refer you to my former Letters & add that they encrease daily—But admit [that even if] those obstacles were done away (unless we could also remove the original cause of them) & a Credit was obtainable as easily as at any period heretofore, no prudent man would be allured by the Most flattering prospect of selling his Goods high to accept it [2] unless he could invent some Mode of remitting for them never yet thought of—Your plan of making remittance through Jamaica & other West India Islands, were it otherwise easy, would be attended with amazing loss—Bills are astonishingly high & it is hazardous to be concerned with them—Gold (uncut Guineas excepted) & silver of every kind, are sold here only as bullion, the former at 77/6 & the latter at 4/11½ p oz.—produce of every kind is still worse—a Cargo of good Tobacco at this time would not everage more than £ 6 p hhd. after paying Commissions & other Charges—This I have the best authority to assert, for three days ago I attend[ed] a Sale of 150 hh^{ds}. shipped from Charlestown & probably the growth of our own State which did not average £ 5.10 —& a great quantity more I have known sold within a few days past at the same rates—Rice sold at the Sale above mentioned at 25/6 P Cwt. & the Commissions & other Charges on it I don't exactly Know[.] it is an article that's on the rise & probably the best of our produce for this market—The Consumption of Tobacco is not equal to the quantity made in America as is manifestly proved by the low price & great quantities that remain unsold in the hands of those to whom it was shipped—The Merchants here unanimously confess it, & are firmly of opinion that half the quantity (if no more was made) would sell for twice the sum—and for that reason they ardently wish to hear of a short Crop this [3] year—I hope after having thus truly represented the Situation of the American business here, you will not reproach me with misconduct or want of attention to the duties of my Errand—In all my actions I have been regulated by what I

thought would be conducive to your interest & worthy your approbation—a reflection that yields me the most delectable Sensation. as I trust you will be better satisfied to continue as you were out of Debt & without Goods, than you would be to have them on such terms as would involve you in Debt for, perhaps, many years & never to be paid for, but on the very disadvantageous terms which I have pointed out—

Our Customers who knew of my coming for Goods, like you, supposed they were to be had on Good terms as usual; but when they know the cause of my not getting them, I cannot conceive that the failure will in the smallest degree affect our Credit—

Whether I am right or wrong in my determination to stay in this Country till I receive your further orders, I know not; but considered that at worst I could only spend the small sum I brought with me & even if I can do nothing, it may not be unprofitably disposed of—to me, I am sure my stay will be highly beneficial, for I already [4] feel my Constitution quite renewed & from the daily encrease of health & strength am flattered into the pleasing idea of returning to my native Country, which believe me I long to see, perfectly free from all those bodily afflictions under which I have so long laboured—whatever may be your opinion please inform me with all possible haste & it is essentially necessary if you form any other plan of business to Europe, to furnish me with the materials for executing it as early as possible, as, if I do not hear from you by the 1st. March or Middle of April shall begin my Voyage home—No. I'll wait a month longer—but don't delay time in letting me know your wish—send me as many good Letters as you can & above all Rich^d. Lake's—I shall endeavour to send a small Spring assortment—If you can send me a Cargo of Tob^o, Rice or any thing else I can put it into the hands of a man whose circumstances (if it will not sell immediately to advantage) enable him to hold it up till it will, or ship it elsewhere to save the duty—& Salt is so cheap that the Vessel may make a saving Voyage by loading back with it—I am sincerely sorry for Col. Thomas' indisposition & that you declined a purchase of Goods to the Northward—I am not surprized at their being dear there as the Exports from this Country are very inconsiderable this fall & to Virg^a. the greatest part—[5] I suppose there have not gone to the Continent this year more than a twentieth part of the quantity of Goods that went there last—I am glad to hear of the Tom's safe return & success & doubt not but your Sloop will make a great

Voyage to Jamaica. The prices of our produce quoted by Rich^d. Lake to his brothers are flattering—

The Ship Carolina sold well—a good one of nearly her size & well rigged might be bought here for that Sum in Sterling—the number on Sale is incredible to tell; from that circumstance you may judge of the situation of trade—it appears to me that at least half the Merchants in the world must fail. we hear of little else from any quarter—happy are they in my opinion who have not adventured—There is scarcely a man to be found here who would advance ten Guineas to an American, tho' a real Gentleman, to keep him out of Newgate, a prison to which he could certainly be carried if he should chance to fall that sum in Debt more than he could immediately pay—I shall live on a very economical plan to avoid the misery of going there myself. I have been there on a visit to some of my Countrymen who are experiencing the extreme of Distress—All the Refugees I have seen here are anxious to get back to the Country they would have[6] enslaved; but next to Heaven if I could be gratified in a wish, it should be to keep them eternally out—and you (JGB & W^mB) as members of Assembly I implore to use your influence in the matter & when I return intend offering myself a Candidate to represent Edgcombe, stimulated by that motive only—

I received two Letters from William Blount in one of which he tells me he shall be at New York the 7th. Nov^r. to which place will write him by packet that sails Monthly. tell my friends I am happy to hear they are well & with fervour pray they may continue so—

I wish success to the old Gentⁿ. & Reading & am— as usual
Yours &c.

THO. BLOUNT

P. S.

Pray have regard to the Education & property of my Charge Lewis Irwin, as also to the Education & Instruction of W^m. Williams My private business I entrust to you—to prevent a sufferance of which, or our joint Interest Sell all or any of my Horses (Newmarket excepted & him let be well Kept) your own judgment to guide you as well in regard of propriety as price—

T. BLOUNT

[7] 23^d. Octo.

I conceive it will be necessary if you mean to prosecute the plan of borrowing Money in Holland on the back Lands, to furnish me with the situation of them. in as accurate a manner as

possible—all differences between the Dutch & the Emperor of Germany are now settled, but with ignominy & disadvantage on the part of the former—Don't forget Vanhasset's Letters—I wish to see Holland & hope it will be practicable to do something—. Lord Montague died a Bankrupt & no person is able to give me certain information of his Son or Cap^t. Barrett, but I think from what I have learnt, they are both in Jamaica & if any thing is to be got for your Bill it is of the latter; & probably R^d. Lake could accomplish it—

T. BLOUNT—

[B] NB.

Whale Oyl may be imported to this Country in American Bottoms but subject to the alien Duty which is a very effectual prohibition—T. B.

John Sitgreaves to John Gray Blount

NEW BERN 30. Octor. 1785.

Dear Sir.

I was disappointed in seeing you at Pitt Court as I expected by being too unwell to ride the first & second days of the Court. I have seen Mr. Blackledge since I wrote you. respect^g. the Tobacco he promised me it shou'd be shipped by the first Vessel going. I shou'd be glad to know when that will happen that I might apprise Shaw of it—

Inclosed are a few Advertisements respecting our Academy,⁶⁹ shall I trouble you to have one or two put up in your *City* & the others dispersed to such places as you think proper.

We have no News except what is brought from the North-Ward, that the Algerines have declared War against us as Barbarians—. I see an Account of the Death of Mr. Sam^l Hardy a Member of Congress from Virginia, in the New York paper—.

I have some thought of going to W^{ms}burg to the foederal Court which sets on the third Tuesday in Next Month but of this I have [2] not fully determined. I shou'd be very glad to hear from you when you heard of your Brother W^m. before I go—

⁶⁹Probably the academy in New Bern.

I am afraid we shall not be able to do any thing for this Mr. Lindsey (the Man from Phil^a.) we had concluded the Bargain with Chandler before he arrived.

I am Dear Sir Yours

JN^o. SITGREAVES

J G Blount. Esqr.

If I should go to Virginia it will be necessary for me to leave a state of my Accounts with the losses on them while I was at Congress, for this purpose I shou'd be glad to have your Account with me.—

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire

Washington

Honored by Mr Hasties

Thomas Blount to [John Gray and Thomas Blount, Merchants]

LIVERPOOL Nov. 7th 1785

Gentlemen,

I have written you by all opportunities since my arrival & my last was dated at London a few days ago & sent by a Mr. Farrer via Norfolk to the care of Mr. John Cowper—I write now only to convince you that I omit no opportunity of letting you hear from me—for believe me I have nothing to say but what I have said to you already—

It was not in my power to effect the Charter of a Vessel here to such advantage as I expected & mentioned to you in my first p the Ship Rebecca—of course not in My power to send a small assortment of winter Goods, which when I wrote from Bristol I had some hope of being able to do—Mr. Rich^d. Lake has never yet mentioned your house to his Brothers, tho he has frequently wrote them & thence arise my disappointments in the plans above mentioned—surely your Letter to him on that Subject must have miscarried—We have here a most dreadful account of the damages done in all the West India Islands (Tortola excepted) by the hurricane of the 27th August—which I must confess gives me real pleasure as it opens a market for our Lumber & will probably give good employment for some time to our Ships which otherwise they must have wanted—You I presume must have heard the account & benefited greatly by the event as

I suppose you had much Lumber on hand & many Vessels to employ⁷⁰— [2] If in this business you have been fortunate enough to make a considerable deposit of Cash in Jamaica or some other Island to be remitted here, as I hope you have, a Cargo of Goods may be sent out in the fall on the best of terms—but if you have not it cannot be effected without sending a Vessel here p what she could bring without a loss I know not—Tar, pitch & Turpentine will not sell at any price. this town has now as much as can be consumed in it in three years which is nearly the case throughout the Kingdom—The annual consumption of Tobacco in this Country is estimated at 12000 hh^{ds}. & duty has been paid on upwards of 20000—received this year at the port of London & in like proportion at Bristol & this place & very few or none have been reshipped as was the custom before the War to France, Holland & Germany—from this estimate it is clear there is now in England nearly as much of that Commodity as can be consumed the ensuing year—of course it will continue very low—I have conversed with many capital Merchants in that Trade & they are unanimously & decidedly of opinion that one half the quantity made in America is equal to the supply of all Europe, consequently was no more made would command nearly twice the Sum that now the whole does—from this information being the best I am capable of giving you are to judge & determine your future plans of business, particularly to Europe, & whatever they may be I am & shall be till you order me home, here ready to execute them. [3] But let me know I beseech you the result of your deliberations as early as possible for I long to see my own Country again & smook a pipe in my own Chimney Corner—without intruding more on your patience, I am, with due respect to all friends

Your Mo. Obed. Serv^t.

THO. BLOUNT

I have lived on the most economical plan & must continue to do so to make my funds hold out till June—through the Mr Lakes I have got acquainted with most of the genteel people here—

⁷⁰Even this early after the formation of their business concern, the Blounts owned a number of vessels. Many more were added in later years, including several brigantines. Up to this point mention has been made of the ship *Caroline*, and the brigs *Young*, *John*, and *Richard*, in addition to a number of sloops and schooners.

John Boswell to William Blount

Copy*

LONG CREEK Nov^r. 26th. 1785

Dear Sir

I am Just returned from ninety Six where I went to enquire after your Waggon I saw the Gentlemen who are just up from Orangeburg on the Circuit, Some of them by the Congaree and others by the ridge but none of them Saw any Such Waggon, the Bearer of this James Bradly I expect will be with you on Monday, by the 12th o Clock I have promised him you would pay him four dollers for his Trouble

Endorese Maj^r. Jn^o. Boswel to W^m Blount

Copy

J Glasgow Secretary

William Blount to John Gray Blount

HOPEWELL December 29th 1785

Dear Sir,

The Chactaw Chiefs arrived here three days past, the treaty with them will commence in the morning and will probably be completed in about six or seven days by which time I expect the Chickasaw Chiefs will be here as they are now daily expected three runners having arrived from them and also their Linguists are here and have been for some days past—So that it is probable I shall not leave this in less than fifteen or twenty days and whenever I am done here I shall hasten Home by way of Augusta & Charleston. No Man was ever more tired of laying on Blanketts and being in the Woods or more anxious to get Home than I am

The Conveyance for this letter is very uncertain therefore I do not write to Molly and should it reach you I beg you to send it to her—please also to let Gov^r. Caswell know the Cause of my Detention. Col. Martin [sends?] his Complements to you [2] The Chactaws are 127 in Number and have been seventy days on their march and are the most naked raged set that ever were beheld.

*This was either a duplicate letter or one which was never mailed.

I have not heard from the Tenessee Commissioners since they arrived at the Bent.

I am,

Your's &c &c.

W^m. BLOUNT

Mr. John Gray Blount

Washington.

Addressed: Mr. John Gray Blount

Washington

Via Charleston Post Office

[*William Blount*] to *William Hay*⁷¹

Copy*

AUGUSTA January 27th 1786⁷²

Dear Sir,

Since my Arrival here I have purchas'd two Warrants for Head Rights, one for Two thousand Acres the other for Two thousand seven Hundred and sixty Acres, both which will be delivered to you by Mr. George Ogg. It is the Opinion of Col^o. Marbray & every other Man I have spoke to [on?] the Subject that Citizen Bounty or Head rights may legally now be laid within the limits of the lands reserved for the Continental [officers and?] Soldiers.

The above two Warrants am^t. to 4760 Acres which I wish to have divided into eight Tracts [2] or Surveys seven to contain 600 Acres each and the other to contain 560 Acres and from what passed between you and myself on the Subject of locating & surveying of lands I depend on you to do both for me on the Good Oconee lands within the Reservation at five Guineas per 1000 and have made provision accordingly in the Hands of Mr. Ogg for the Payment to be made to you when by you required—

In the Trunk in which Mr. Wards Goods are contained will be found a Piece of Irish Linnen and Two yards of Green Cloth marked for you and not charged to Mr. Ward which I beg you to apply to Mr. Ward for and receive and accept as a Present from me—Altho it is a receved Opinion that Citizen Bounties or

*This was either a duplicate letter or one which was never mailed.

⁷¹Probably William Hay who earlier had been a member of the firm of John Hay & Co. at Wilmington. *State Records of North Carolina*, XVIII, 215.

⁷²The number of letters for 1786 is the smallest in the collection and many of those which are extant have been published in *Letters of Members of the Continental Congress* (edited by Edmund C. Burnett) or in the *State Records of North Carolina*.

Headrights may be laid in the reservation Yet I think [3] Survey in the Business will be most safe but at the same Time take Care and let Your Locations be so well described as no future doubts can arise as to the Identity of Land. I shall depend on you to follow up the Works untill they are passed into Grants and the Additional Expence must also be paid to you by Mr. Ogg. —Dispatch in this Business is very necessary and delay is dangerous and as I have determined to lay a larger quantity than I mentioned to you I hope and expect that you will be able to go about the Business immediately and to more advantage than if the quantity had been as small as I first proposed.—If you make Goods from Mr. Ward answer in Payment to you as perhaps you may in paying your Chain Bearers it will suit me very well [4] to credit him for such Goods—One of the Warrants the 2760 Acres in the Name of J G Blount to be divided into four. the other 2000 Acres to be divided into four Warrants also
WILLIAM HAY

Charles Gerrard to Cox Coart

[TARBORO, December 13, 1786]

Sir

You'll recive by Keais 22 hh^{ds}. Tob^o. weights & N^o. agreeable to the inclosed list, also 14 hh^{ds}. Sent by Mr. Edward Hall: one barrel flour for M^{rs}. Blount. we've not made one barrel of pork, and of Course can Send you none and; and what is Still worse, believe Shall not be able to procure a Sufficiency for our own use, and yours at washington.—The Salt and pork barrels Came Safe to hand.—wish you'd Send the Rum by the Opp—M^{rs}. Harvey has Sent to M^{rs}. Blount 5 yd. Callico, a Sifter, Sallery [celery], Garden herbs &c.—

I am Sir yours &c.

CHARLES GERRARD

Tarb^o. Dec^r. 13th. 1786.—

Addressed: M^r Cox Coart

Washington

Tarboro Packet

*William Duncan⁷³ to John Gray Blount*MONTEGO BAY JAM^a. ⁷⁴ 15 Decr. 1786John Gray Blount Esq^r.

Sir

My last under date the 27th Ult^o. went by the Brig^t. Polly which sailed from hence the 28th for Turks Isles⁷⁵ where she was to endeavour to procure a Cargo of Salt and to proceed for Washington where I hope she will arrive Safe before this can come to your hands—By my last I ordered a large quantity of Staves and heading by the return of the Brig^t. Since when several large Cargoes have arriv'd which will be nearly sufficient for the Crop: I would therefore have you send but few of that article and as the very best that can be Substituted in their Stead, Ship all the *Black-eyed* Peas you can procure—They will always sell for 8 to 10/ of this Money P Bushell & Sometimes more, and indeed every article of provision is & is likely to remain in greater demand than Lumber. I am told there is great plenty of Peas about Newbern and [2] and as you must pay lighterage for the Brig^t. it is as cheap from N. bern as from Washington Let the quantity which each package contains be marked by Invoice—but Take care to put no *Salt* provisions⁷⁶ of any Kind either in the Clearance or Bill of Lading or at least send *one* without them. With respect to every thing else I beg to refer you to my last and would only add my request that you use every possible dispatch.

I am w^t. respect & Esteem

Sir

Your Mo Ob^t hble Serv^tW^m. DUNCAN

P.S. I am truly at a loss to account for my never being favord w^t a line by any of the many Vessells from Wilmington to this place—The Vessels by which I now write is the same that carried my Letter of 18th Oct^r.⁷⁷ She is now ready to sail again—There is expedition for you!

⁷³William Duncan was a West Indian trader in Jamaica.

⁷⁴See location of Montego Bay, Jamaica, on map, "Ports of Call," p. 175.

⁷⁵Turks Island was a great center for obtaining salt. The British seemed very lenient in enforcing restrictions on American vessels there, provided that they limited their cargoes to salt. In fact, a blanket privilege for foreign vessels to enter the island, if in ballast, was given by the crown in 1788. Danby Pickering, compiler, *British Statutes at Large*, 28 George III, c. 6; George III, c. 101.

⁷⁶Salt provisions, beef and pork, were prohibited as a favor to Ireland.

⁷⁷Duncan's letter for October 18 has not been found.

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Washington

P Post

Recd and forwarded by Sir
Your hble Servt.

Wilmington THO: MURLEY
9 Jan. 1787

LETTERS FOR 1787

Thomas Blount to John Gray & Thomas Blount

LONDON January 3^d 1787

Dr. Sirs,

I wrote you fully on the 1st. & 20th Nov^r. & to them Letters refer you for the Reasons that induced me to resolve to stay here till you write again & are more positive in your orders to come home.—I cannot possibly leave this before you remit me some Cash—Pray send me immediately as much as you can & what is not absolutely necessary for my expences (which are regulated by frugality) I'll apply toward the discharge of your Debt to Fulwar Skipwith & C^o. who are now in such circumstances that they are not able to advance me a Shilling—their Agent, Mr. Eyre, is confessedly the greatest Villain in England—'tis he that has ruined them—send nothing to his or their address—I have written to Mr Skipwith on the Subject of his Conduct & expect that he Pennock or Nicholson¹ will soon be here—the Judy Randolph arrived here the 17th Ult^o. & I was much surprized at your not writing by her but Virginia Tob^a. in France is now up to 45 or 50 Livres but will probably be soon down again to 34 a 36 a 38—there cannot possibly be a loss on [2] Carolina Tobaccos at any price under 30/. cur^y. [currency] if sent to the French Market—at 26/. it would now be a wonderful Speculation, as you will see by the estimate I sent you in my last by the Robert Cap^t Ramsay via, Virg^a.—Your Letter of the 30th July is the last to hand—in future pray write me by all opportunities till you see me & direct to the care of Mess^{rs}. Alexander & Benjamin

¹Members of the firm Pennock, Skipwith, and Nicolson of Richmond, Virginia, and an American branch division of Fulwar, Skipwith, and Company. (See John Cowper to John Gray Blount, January 13, 1787, below, p. 238). Fulwar Skipwith himself had extensive correspondence with the Blounts.

Contee[.] A happy New Year to you & many of them—I am well—Cooper is with me Sends Compliments

Yours &c.

THO. BLOUNT

Addressed: Messrs. John G & Tho. Blount
Washington
N^o. Carolina

p.Packet
via
New York

Joseph Palmer to John Gray Blount

PINEY GROVE 6 Jan^y. 1787

Sir.

Mr Thomas Blount have agreed that I Should be persessor of his third—parte of the mills,² which youl Consider him as not aparte in the agreament that is between us.—I wish you to Send Sum person with Tho^s. Blount³ to Receive the Lumber and take en acct. of the Same—and oblige your

Most Ob^t. Hum^l Ser^t

JO^s. PALMER

Addressed: John G Blount Esquire
Washington

William Blount to John Gray Blount

NEWYORK January 13th 1787

Dear Sir,

Your favour of the 7th December by Mr. [Edward] Dowse who arrived here on the day before yesterday is handed me [If only] you had been a little more [explicit even?] for you why you were not— D[ow]se has informed me in general Terms of the proceedi[ngs] and General Disposition to pr[oc]eed while he stayed and to be sure as many as hear him relate are astonished to hear that The Constitution of the Country, says the Ju-

²The Blounts were interested in sawmills at Piney Grove. Palmer seems to have had the management of the mills and one-third interest in them prior to his purchase of Thomas Blount's third.

³This was probably Thomas H., the son of John Gray Blount.

dicial, legislative and Executive Powers shall be forever separte and distinct. I begin to feel partial to what I am told is the doctrine of the Farmer's Letters.⁴

Must not every thinking man view our Republican Government as the Most intolerable of all Tyranny? Can any Man be safe in his house while the Legislature are setting? I do not mean to say whether the Persons confined by the *Legislature* have suffer'd or have not suffered according to their Demerit for I am informed] that [they] are [quite?] a few[.] you Mention only Butch[er?] there [is] an old and common Exclamation O Tempus O Moress! O Times! O Manners Blessed Fruits of Independence⁵—

By the Bearer Captain Cossa 50 lb[s] of Bees Wax were brought to this place on my account which I desired to sell for me and lay the Mony out in Flax for me and deliver the Flax to you [2] The Wax he sold for 2/3 per lb and the Flax he tells me will cost him 1/ at least however he will render you I suppose an Account.—No Congress yet and uncertain when there will be[.] only four States represented

I feel a very great [disposition] to return home tho' the Object of [my stay] here as respects my self appears [quite flattering, I shall not leave at] any rate before I hear [from you] Pray [let] me hear what the A[ssembly] has done I fear there has been the Devil to pay and you on the Weak Side or rather on no side, let me know the bad with the good if good there has been among other things tell me what is or what is like to be done with the Public Tobacco⁶ on this be very particular for I am daily questioned about it either by the board of Treasury or by some Persons who I believe want to be meddling with it. I have heard Nothing of Tom. Blount since the Letters I received by Mr. Voss which I forwarded if you have any Letters for him the Conveyances here are Weekly and sometime daily—

I belive Dowes will not come back about the Tobacco tho' he talks [to me like] he will. I have been taught to understand partly how he proposed to have paid [the mo]ny so that the Tobacco would not really have cost more than about 22/4 per 100

⁴John Dickinson of Pennsylvania, the author of a series, *Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania*. Dickinson was considered a conservative in politics.

⁵Blount had been criticized about his action in dealing with the Indians. In the summer of 1786 Richard Caswell had written John Sevier (July 12, 1786, Draper Manuscripts, McClung Collection), "great clamour is making here respecting the conduct of Colonel Blount at the Indian Treaty . . ." As a result of this criticism much opposition was aroused, which was increased by jealousies of the growing power and wealth of the Blounts. Many of William Blount's letters have been published in Edmund C. Burnett, ed., *Letters of Members of the Continental Congress*, and in the *State Records of North Carolina*.

⁶See below, p. 238, n. 8.

lb Weight, he was only the Instrument solely so, nor have I been able to learn the names of more than one of the Principals—

This to yourself unless you see an Advantage to [3] to *Yourself* in letting Government Know or understand it—Let me hear by every post if it is but a Single Line—Compliments to Polly,

Your's &c

W^m BLOUNT

[P.S. I am informed that] Adherents prevented the setting of a [Court?] at [Spring]field [Massachusetts] the last Week in the [old] year and no attempts were made on the part of Government to support it—

It is said Government are determined to support a Court that is to set on the 23^d. of this month and that Shay and his Adherents are as determined it Shall not sit. At Mr. Ramsays the following is the price of the following articles—

Pitch — 12/ dull

Turpentine 12/ dull

Tar — 12/ current

and you may depend on them as the genuine prices.

Connecticut Pork [—]

Indian Corn — 4/3

Wheat 8/

Flax Seed — 11½

black eyed Pease — 6/

Good Tobacco — 4^d per lb

Final Settlements 2/7 ^d in the pound

Charles Gerrard to John Gray Blount

TARBOROUGH January 13th. 1787

Sir

I have made about 20 barrels of pork, and 6 or 7 doz. hams and Shoulders; as the pork is for your own use, would wish to know if it's worth while to add the expense of inspection—I've 11 Hh^{ds}. Tob^o. and Some Corn 25 or 30 barrels, we begin to be in want of Iron, Rum, Sugar, and molasses; and Soon Shall want Salt.—tell John Young I've bought one barrel of flour for him, and will Send it down by the first opportunity.—

I am Sir

Y^r. Humble Servant

CHARLES GERRARD.—

N.B I've never had an opportunity to Send the £ 200 to Fayetteville you directed.—

Addressed: J G Blount Esq

John Cowper⁷ to John Gray Blount

PORTSMOUTH Jan^y 13th. 1787

John G. Blount Esq^r

Sir

Will you be so Obliging as inform me by return of the Post W[h]eather the Publick Tob^o. of your State is sold.⁸ If it is not. Inform me the lowest it can be had for payable in undoubted Bills of Exchange on London or Amsterdam at 60 days and what difference between 60 & 90 days. If it is not sold I should be glad the sale could be postponed Untill you hear from me again In answer to what you may say respecting the price—Our Assembly has rose [2] after a very long Session and done in Fact no business. much of there [their] time has been taken up in laying additional emport and Tonnage, and at last have broke up without doing anything therein. Tell me the fate of the [canal] Bill⁹ with you, and what may be Montford & Maculloch, fate—

⁷A merchant of Portsmouth, Virginia, with whom the Blounts had extensive commercial dealings.

⁸The tobacco had not been sold at this time. North Carolina's federal debt was a problem of great concern to the leaders of the state, and William Blount was one who sought not only to fathom the causes of North Carolina's problem, but also to do something about it. In 1782 he and Hugh Williamson had been greatly vexed because North Carolina had "long been viewed in a very unfavorable point of light." They prepared accounts of the state's accomplishments for publication in a leading newspaper of the time (*The Pennsylvania Packet*) with the hope of mending the state's reputation. It was thought that part of North Carolina's financial backwardness, which was reflected in the failure to contribute its proportional share of the federal debts, was attributable to the difficulty of exporting its bulky products (lumber, tar, pitch, turpentine, and corn) in war times. As a result of the decline in foreign trade, the state's revenues were low. In the face of this situation, the state undertook to try to pay its war debts by the purchase of products from its own citizens, who could be paid in North Carolina paper money (which the state would accept for taxes), and the sale of these products abroad. In the case of the state's debt to Martinique, a contract was made with John Gray and Thomas Blount, Merchants, to buy goods for which the state would furnish warrants; ship the goods to the West Indies and sell them there; and then apply to the debt the funds from the sale of the cargoes. The Blounts would take the proper receipt and give account to the state of the payments made. Even if no profits were made on the goods, the sales would serve the state by transforming the bulky products into hard money, which the debtors demanded. This plan put much power and responsibility on the merchants and exposed them to a great deal of criticism from the public. In the case of tobacco the state assumed more direct control. Purchasers were named and provision for inspection and storage was provided. This plan was not without its problems. The state's action caused a rise in the local price of tobacco and the cost of storage ate up quite a bit of profit. Furthermore, tobacco was a perishable product which often suffered from long storage in the inadequate warehouses of the time.

⁹Virginia had proposed, in the spring of 1786, that North Carolina co-operate in taking preliminary steps for the construction of the Dismal Swamp Canal. In the following December North Carolina agreed to the proposals which led later to the chartering of the canal company. *State Records of North Carolina*, XVIII, 571; Samuel A. Ashe, *History of North Carolina* (2 vols. Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton, 1925), II, 125.

the 11th Inst. at 3 in the Morning a fire broke out in the City of Richmond [which] in the Course of three Hours destroyed 160 Houses and the Tob^o. warehouses wth. 300 H^{hd} Tob^o., this fire broke out Next door to your Acquaintance P. [Pennock] & Skipwith and gave them only time to save their books and papers the whole of there [their] property as Well Houses as good[s] [3] Were destroyed in the Flames. fortunately they had Covered in London on there property 3000 £ Sterling Many Merchants have suffered very heavily, as the fire was in that part of the City where Most of the Merchants transacted there business. P & S. loss cannot be less than 10'000 Currency—Trade [here] is very dull, sale of goods are [slow] from no disposition in the Merch[ants] to Credit, and no power in the small dealers to pay Cash. our Assembly has Made Tob^o. receiveable for Taxes. which perhaps may support the price of that Article at present the price at Petersburg is about 21/6 to 22/— Pork is in demand here it will Command 80/ Cash I am Dr Sir Your Ob^t Se^t

JOHN COWPER

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr
Merchant

Fulwar Skipwith¹⁰ to John Gray & Thomas Blount

RICHMOND Jan^y. 15. 1787

Mes^{rs}. John G & Thomas Blount
Gentlemen

As far back as the 21st. of November last I had the Honor to write you from Philadelphia; but having been favoured with no Answer, conclude that my Letter must have miscarried—whither it has or not the, Contents I conceive are done away

Yesterday a Letter dated October 13th. from your Brother T Blount was handed in—in it he appears to point out Remittances for the Goods shipped by F S & C^o. through a Channel that I stipulated against, if however in making the Remittances to London [2] in the way I expected & which I thought your T Blount understood, you should subject yourselves to Inconvenience & Loss, I am well satisfied that another mode of Payment shall be made—this, Gentlemen I must beg to observe, & what you must be sensible of, that the shipping of Dry Goods from London on

¹⁰See above, p. 234, n. 1.

Commission would be a beggarly Business indeed were not Remittences for them expected to be in something which would afford an Advantage

The late Fire in this City has in a great measure deranged my Plans, & also subjected me to a pretty heavy Loss, in Consequence I shall for some time have Occasion for all the Resources which can be brought in to my Assistance [3] this therefore induces me to offer to take any part or the whole of the Sum due F S & C^o. either in Cash here, good Bills on London or Paris, or Tobaccos of James, Appomattox, or York River Inspections at their current value, provided Paym^t. is made in Three Months from the Date hereof I have in possession a Bill on you at sight—for £160—V. C^y. [Virginia Currency] drawn by Mr T Blount for Cash advanced him in London to defray his private Expences, this I make no doubt you will reimburse me with by the first opportunity when the Bill shall be forwarded

From the Reputation of your House & my personal Knowledge of one of its Partners [4] I rest well assured that your Enact-ions in my Favour will fully merit the Confidence & Connexion of the House in London

With great Respect

Your Mo Ob Servant

FULWAR SKIPWITH

Fulwar Skipwith to John Gray Blount

NORFOLK Jan^y. 27. 1787

Mr. Jn^o. G. Blount

Dear Sir

I became in receipt of your Favor of the 14th Curt. two Days back, & observe therein your determination to send round 1,000 Barrels of Tar—it will get to hand too late for the purpose I at first wanted it, yet Sir to accomodate you, I will receive it on Acc^t. at the current price, or if more agreeable to you, I will ship it to Falmouth & the Proceeds thereof shall go to your Credit in London—My Friend in Falmouth [England] has assured me that such a quantity of Tar would do tolerably well, therefore you may not object to make the Adventure

I did myself the pleasure to write you some time ago, intimating that for the Shipment made by Fulwar Skipwith & C^o.—last

Fall to your House, I would receive any part Payment or the whole in this Country, I beg leave again to repeat that Offer & to observe that I would gladly receive Tarborough Tobacco of [2] good Weights delivered here, or Should you be disposed to ship for your own Account Tobaccos of that Description I think from my last Accounts from London, I can promise you Safety if not Profit in doing it.—

I have been some time in possession of a Bill for 333 1/3 Dollars, drawn on your House by your T Blount for Money advanced him in London, be so good as to contrive to take this up & it shall be forwarded by the first safe Opportunity after.

With great Regard

I am

Dear Sir

Your Mo Ob Servant

FULWAR SKIPWITH

Please direct for me at Richmond—

Addressed: John G Blount Esqr

Washington

N^o. Carolina

Post

George Ryan¹¹ to John Gray Blount

[SALMON CREEK]¹² [January 27, 1787]

I rec^d. your fav^r. of the 26th. Inst. and note the Contents, the Quantity of Fish¹³ you want, you may be Supplied with at Salmon Creek, to Say 800 or 1000 Bbl^s., I am not in want of any Certificates, I will take 450 Bus^{ls}. of fine Salt, and 300 D^o. of Turk's Island Salt, the fine Salt a 3/ Pr. Bus^l. and Course [coarse] at 4/ Pr. D^o. Deliverd at Salmon Creek on or About the first Day of April, the Vessel that Brings the Salt can take in the

¹¹George Ryan was a justice of the peace in Bertie County in 1776. *State Records of North Carolina*, XXIII, 993.

¹²Salmon Creek was one of the earliest towns of North Carolina. In the fall of 1676 the Lords Proprietors of North Carolina gave instructions for the founding of three towns in Albemarle County. These towns, which were to be the only ports of the county, were: (1) Roanoke Island, (2) one on the west side of Little River, and (3) one "upon the neck of land between Salmon Creeke and Marrattocke Rivers, . . ." *Colonial Records of North Carolina*, I, 229, 231.

¹³Fish has been an important commodity of North Carolina since the beginning of the colony. The Blount correspondence indicates its importance as an article for export. The fishing enterprise is one explanation of the great demand for salt. Fish were dried and packed in salt, "pickled" in brine, or sold "green." The Blounts were trying to get fish for shipment to the West Indies. See William Duncan to John Gray Blount, March 17, 1787, below, p. 267.

fish, as I will engage to supply you with 500 or 600 Bb^{ls}. by the first of may, and the Remainder by the 15th., as the fish may be taken in as they are packed away in Shiping Order, those fish is to be Catch'd at three Sains all on the Creek and within two miles of the Mouth of the Creek, by Tom^s. Jacocke, Chris Clark and my Self, the price of the Fish is 26/8 Curr^t. money pr. Bb^l., after the Salt is Deducted, we Expect the ball^{ce}. to be paid in Money on the Delivery of the fish. your Answer by next poast will much Oblige

Dr Sir

Y^r. Hum Serv^t. GEO. RYAN

Addressed: John Blount Esqr.

Mercht

Washington

John Haywood¹⁴ to John Gray Blount

EDGECOMBE [County] Jan^y. 28th. 1787

Sir,

Your favour of the 22nd. Instant was the other day handed me; in answer to which you will permit me to offer you my Thanks for your obliging Endeavour to Serve me in the purchase of the French-Mans Negroe, as well as for your Proposal in regard to the three Fellows of your own;—fearing a disappointment in getting the Fellow I wish'd, immediately on my Return home I hired a Negroe; my Farm being but small the hiring this hand fully Manns me, which is one reason wherefore I would willingly decline your Offer; the other is in truth, that I have not any one of the Articles you would wish to sell for, and is therefore that which compells me to decline it.

Considering myself still at Stake as to the public Tobacco by me purchased, I take the [2] liberty of offering a Request, that you will be pleased to be mindful of that in your Cellar and that you will remind Mr Blackledge of the Necessity of being careful of that Stored with him; for which long Care and trouble you may be assured I will thankfully & Satisfactorily make you Compensation on our Settlement.

Suffer me to request you will be So obliging as to endeavor to render acceptable to M^{rs}. Blount, an Offer of my most respect-

¹⁴John Haywood of Edgecombe County was treasurer of North Carolina.

ful Compliments; that you will accept them yourself and believe me

With the greatest Respect
and Esteem

Your hum Serv^t.

J. HAYWOOD

My Howd'ye to Tom

M Blount

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire

Washington

Mr. Harvey

John Cowper to John Gray Blount

PORTSMOUTH Jan^y. 30th. 1787

Dr. Sir

Your favor of 22 Inst. came duely to hand. I have been favoured wth. a Copy of the Resolution of your Assembly respecting the Canal, which very much flatters my hope that it will pass the Next Assembly so you see we still differ in opinion respecting this business

I return you my thanks for your Attention to My friend Parkers business And really think he had best receive his Money—I am really at a loss to inform you the Cash price of Tar here—for at Present there is no demand I think you cannot Count on more [than] [2] 8/6 delivered in Merchantable Order here. Tho the last Cargoe we sold was at 10/ 2 Months Credit. Tob^o. at Petersburg 22/6[.] Pork in demand here say from 80/ to 90/ P barrel—but the Scarcity of Money, beggars All description[.] Mr. Wilson presented your Draft on Me and I was very sorry I had not a Command of Cash to take it up or I would most Assuredly have done it—Mr. Skipwith is at this place and says he has a small Drft on you from your Brother [Thomas?] and would be glad you would place the Cash in My hands to discharge it he did not Mention the sum to me I therefore presume you are Acquainted with [3] the sum—I am

Dr. Sir

Your Ob^t Set

JOHN COWPER

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr

Mercht

Washington

*Thomas Blount to [John Gray Blount]*LONDON Feb^y. 3rd 1787

Dear Sir,

By the New York Packet w^h. arrived yesterday, I rec^d. Letters from my brother William of the 22^d. Dec^r. & 3^d. Jan^y. informing me that he has forwarded me a power of Attorney from M^{rs}. Ann Hill, late widow of Abednego Hudson,¹⁵ to recover a Legacy bequeathed to her Husband in this Country; but it was entrusted to the care of M^r. Orchard, a passenger, who has not yet reached this place—What time this Business will require, I shall not Know, till I am possessed of all the papers & have taken Counsel on them—But be it more or less, poverty will oblige me to remain here till you remit me Money enough to get me away—say, at least £150 Sterling—and, having already informed you of the misfortune of Mess^{rs}. Fulwar Skipwith & C^o. which renders them incapable of being any longer your Correspondent, I expect you will, at the same time, give me your further instructions on that Subject—The fate of the infamous M^r. Eyre is at length determined—He is now safely lodged in the Kings-Bench prison & deserves to be kept there during his life, for he is doubtless as great a Villain as a man of his understanding can be, but it is said he [2] will, in a few days avail himself of the Bankrupt Act to obtain his liberty.—The loss that F. S. [Fulwar Skipwith] & C^o. have sustained by him cannot be estimated at less than £6.000—exclusive of their Credit which is irreparably ruined.—pray be punctual, strictly punctual in your Remittances, & by all means avoid making them through an improper Channel—I conceive that it is absolutely necessary to close the account as early as possible, & to the end that it may be finally and effectually done, think it will be best to do it myself—then there can be no afterclaps—This consideration sufficiently convinces me of the propriety of staying in Europe till July or August, or, rather till you positively order me away, even if necessity & other Business did not compel me.—In the course of that time, if you find the Dry Goods Business profitable, it is probable you may strike some new & more eligible plan of obtaining them—William Blount has flattered my expectation that those I sent you have answered extremely well—if so, tis great encouragement to adventure again, particularly if you can man-

¹⁵Abednego Hudson, the former husband of Mrs. Hill, had been drowned when washed from the deck of a vessel bound to the West Indies under the command of Captain George Dennison. No evidence was found to show that the Blounts were successful in obtaining the legacy.

age to purchase with ready Money, for by that means you would get them at least 15 a 20 P C^t Cheaper—I am very sorry for your disappointment in not getting the public Tobacco (which W.B. also informs me of) it was an object of the greatest importance [3] However I still hope that you have made some Speculations in that article—If you have, send it to Havre, Morlaix, Bourdeaux, or L'Orient—at the two first mentioned ports the price is about a Livre P100^{wt}. [sic] more than at the two last; but the Harbours are bad, the Navigation intricate & the detention much greater, for which reasons I would recommend L'orient in preference to either & next to that Bourdeaux—In case you do send direct your Captain & the man to whom you Consign, to write me immediately to this place. & direct to the care of Mess^{rs}. Alex^a. & Benj^a. Contee. Merch^{ts}. No. 2 Crescent London—I think I can manage to get the proceeds here without suffering much loss by the difference of Exchange—tho' now great—

When I first heard of Mr Blackledges marriage to one of our sisters I concluded it was my Housekeeper & was extremely distressed by the idea of losing her; but, being since informed that Louisa was his choice, am better reconciled—not because I have less affection for her, but because she is delivered from the unhappy condition of an old maid¹⁶—Do me favor to present her & her Deliverer with the Compliments proper for the occasion & assure them of my hearty good Wishes for their Mutual Happiness in the conjugal life. I, too have an affair of Love on hand with a Dutch [4] Girl who lives at the Hague, & tho my own feelings are not in the smallest degree, sensible of that Heaven born passion, the situation of her mind seems to indicate the necessity of submitting to Matrimony—But, if I should commit an act so repugnant to the dictates of Reason & the Duty I owe to my Relations & friends, it will, no doubt, be some consolation, *to part of them*, that she is said to be Rich—that, however, is no consideration with me—My motive will be pure humanity—& Humanity seldom loses its reward.

Therefore be not surprized or offended if I introduce you to another Sister Louisa.¹⁷—My Constitution seems now to be on the decline again—I have an alarming Cough attended by a con-

¹⁶Louisa Blount's marriage to Richard Blackledge, October 16, 1786 [Craven County Marriage Bonds (North Carolina Department of Archives and History)]. He had thought at first that it was his sister Ann (Mrs. James Harvey).

¹⁷His own love affair did not terminate as he prophesied. He may have overestimated the young woman's interest in him. For further description of the young woman see Thomas Blount to John Gray and Thomas Blount, London, July 7, 1787, below, p. 316.

tinual tho' slight, Rheumatism & some pretty evident Symptoms of the Gout—owing I believe, chiefly to my continuing too long in the confined noxious air of London—If I do not mend soon will endeavour to borrow Money enough to take me to the South of France & spend a few months there—You will notwithstanding direct for me here, & pray write me often—remember too that Politics & family occurrences afford me great pleasure—With all due Respect

I am

Yours affectionately

THO. BLOUNT

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

EDENTON 5th Feby 1787

Dear Sir

Doctr [Nicholas] Romaine informs me that a Brig of his Captⁿ. Harris saild a considerable Time ago for Washington. Is she arrived! has she sailed or when will she sail? By this I shall be able to guess whether she may be again expected in this State for she is to sail for Madeira on April.

Are there children at this Time sufficient at Greenville to form a School?¹⁸ I mean a School for teaching to read correctly, writing and Arithmetic English Grammar, Geography, latin &c, for the meer teaching to know the alphabet to spell or to hammer out the reading of a short Sentence should not be submitted to the Teacher of such a School. There is a young man in this Town who understands Latin & French and writes a fair Hand; there are three other Schools in Town besides his, he has but eleven Scholars and only one of them learns latin, for 5 or 6 Boys are sent from this Place to the Northward, his School of course is not Sufficient for his Sustenance he wishes to have a better, his decent Deportment seems to deserve Encouragement. Are you desirous to open a School immediately at Greenville if so, how much can the Trustees engage to pay for the first Year? 19 Boys at £8 the Year would give £150. This I think he would take. Especially as Board may be cheaper there than here. In this Town the Scarcity of Hog and Homminy on this Year prevents

¹⁸The academy was chartered January 6, 1787. Hugh Williamson, William Blount, Reading Blount, and Richard Caswell were among the trustees named in the act. At the same time the name of the town was changed from Martinborough to Greenville.

People from being able on this Year even to pay for the Schooling of their Children. I expect to go to Petersburg about 3 Weeks hence thence to Mecklenburg where a good deal of Tobacco is due me [2] From the Court House of that County I may cross over to Warrenton¹⁹ or in that Direction & come down Tar River for I wish to see Mrs Stevens at Bath to try whether She can be prevaild on to do Justice to her Niece and I want also to try whether I cannot take up a Piece of tolerable vacant Land towards the Sound Side in the County below you In case my Name is among the Trustees of Greenville Academy I would be glad to See a Meeting of the Trustees about that Time to consider what is to be done for the best to promote the Institution. In the mean while I wish to have Your Answer whether any thing can be done for this young man who must Seek Employment in some other Place if you have none for him there.

I am Dear Sir Your Obed^t serv^t,

HU WILLIAMSON

P. S. What became of the old Gov^{ns} Draught in favour of Capt: Collins?

Jn^o G Blount Esq^r:

Stuart & Barr to John Gray & Thomas Blount

PHILADELPHIA 14th. Febuary 1787

Gentlemen

Your esteemed favour of 14th. January we have Rec^d. & observe what you Say Respecting the price of your Brig,²⁰ Oure only object at present is to pay oure debts, Rather than to Purchase another Vessell, we have at present A Large Ship, of oure own Intirety, which is Rather a Burthen than a profit to us, (& *with deficulty we Can find Employment for Her*,, as all Kinds of Vessells, here are a meare Drug,) There is Sundry Vessells here, (*which has Been upwards of Three yeares on the Stocks*,,, It would soote us Best to Loade your Brig for Some port in france, with Tobacco, for which we will give you 36 Livre Per HHd—

¹⁹See Map (Tanner, "Map of North and South Carolina"), p. 64, for the location of the town of Warrenton in the County of Warren. This was the home of Nathaniel Macon, who was a prominent figure in the Federal congress in the latter part of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

²⁰This appears to have been the brig, *John*. They did sell it later. James Barr to John Gray and Thomas Blount, Philadelphia, July 6, 1787; and John Gray Blount to Thomas Blount, June 3d, 1787, below, p. 362.

Trade Here is Truly Descouraging, at presont and the Value of Vessells, has fell amazeingly with us, at present a Vessell Like youres, would not Bring over 2000 Dollars in this place,—In order to Compley as fare as Possible with your proposal, (as your Vessel is on the Spot, where we want one, If She is well found, in Riging, Sailes, Cables, & Anchors, and fit to Proceed to Sea, We will take the Brig at the Price you Set upon her of 3000 Dollars, upon your Compleating [2] Her with an upper Deck, so as to admit a Hogsheade of Tobacco upon the Heade, with Freedom Between her Decks & under her Beams, Her Timbers, Beames, & Races, to be of Good wood, the Deck of Good 2 Intch Plank, the whole finished in a Workman Like manner by the 15th or 20th of April, the Brigs, Bottom Cleaned and her in Good Compleate order for Receveing a Cargo, with Safety, The whole of this Alteration here would at present Cost from 200, to 250, Dollars, & Not more

(We will furnish as much Bar Iron as will be wanted for Makeing this alteration into the Bargin)

Should you accept of these proposals please to Begin upon makeing the alteration as Soon as Possible, as by the time She Can be Finished she will be wanted—At present we are offered a Double Decked Brig, Built here 4 Months of the Stockes, 141 Tons Burthen Compleate for 2700 Dollars,—One thing is Greate-ly against all american Built Vessells that the wont Sell to For-einers & must be Held or attmost Givein away—Our J Barr pro-poses to be with you by the first Good opportunity We are with Greate Esteem your most Humble Ser^{ts}.

STUART & BARR

Messrs. John G & Tho^s Blount

[3] P S the Water ways to be Sollid the Quickwork from 8 to 9 Intches high above the Deck, her Bowsprit to be fixed upon Her upper Deck—

If you accept of Our proposal write us by Post & any other oppertunity that we may send on a Captain to take Charge of her

S & B

Addressed: Messrs John G & Tho^s. Blount
Merchants
Washington
North Carolina

Per Post

*George Ryan to John Gray Blount*WINFIELD Feb^r. 16th 1787D^r Sir

I recevd yours of the 11th and note the Contents, as for your offer in Sault we will Except if you Like and your Vessel Shall have all the Dispatch that is posable when She Coms for the fish; and as for the 400 B.bs. payable in money we Cant let them go for less than 26/8, Mr. Blunt I am Sure knows the low Value of the Current Money;—Sir if you think of Taking up with the proposals, either of the Sault or money or both pleas let me know. by the first Oppertunaty as we may not miss furnishing Our Selves with Sault as theyer is a great plenty [of fish] in our Creek at this time, and you will greatly Oblige your Obedent Sr.

GEO. RYAN

turn over

[2] Sir if you have any Sain Twine I Should be glad to git 50^{lb}. of you by the next Stage—

G. R.

Addressed: John Blunt Esqr.

Washington

*Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount*EDENTON 16th Feb^y 1787

Dear Sir

The Post did not arrive till on Tuesday morning and in course he had set out before I rec^d yours of 10th. Mr Johnson says he is pretty well Supplyd with salt, Mr. Blackledge it seems had spoken to him on the subject, however he is willing to commute Herrings for Salt as far as 400 Bushels but he will not give the Price expected. Pork and Corn being both dear and scarce he expects that Fish will bring a good Price. He says he will give 50 Brls of Herrings will [well] preserved and in good Order for 400 Bshls of Turks Island Salt if the Salt can be delivered at his Ware House pretty soon. So that he may depend on it for the Fishery. But he will not give a greater Price nor contract for a larger Quantity. If he shall be informed immediately that the Terms are accepted he will consider himself as under the Contract, else he must look out for some more Salt, for he has not yet got his Quantity.

I wish you could recollect by whom you Sent the Letters for me at Halifax. I shall get some Gentleman to call on the Parties, if in the Vicinity to ask for the Letters. Whatever Stories you may have to tell, you will not be able to tell any Thing con [2] concerning the Insincerity or duplicity of certain public Persons that can give me surprise. If you should have discovered any Proof of their Candour, don't forget the Same, it is a curiosity. I have some Reason to believe that the subsisting Tryals at Warrington²¹ may occasion a Small Revolution in the Sentiment of People respecting some of your very popular Members. It is said that Davie²² is the Professed Champion

Right against wrong in equal Scale he weights
And sollid Pudding against empty Praise.

Be pleased present Mrs Blount with my Respects

I am with great Regard

Dear Sir

Your obed^t Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

Jn^o Blount Esqr:

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr.

Washington

Charles Gerrard to John Gray Blount

TARBOROUGH February 20th. 1787

Sir

You'll receive Six Hh^{ds}. Tob^o. Pr. Capt. Scott as Pr. Manifest enclosed, the two uper Hh^{ds}. N^o. 375 and 376 was under Tob^o. and not inspected, tho' very good of the Kind. I n^o. them myself and left room above to tuck them in after the inspectors had sign'd the manifest. Supposeing you might pass them off for good Tobacco with less difficulty I've two Hh^{ds}. on hand which Capt. Scott could not take on board, which I'll Send in our boat when She gets up. The weather's been so very bad theres neither

²¹Officers were charged with the misappropriation of army funds and some prominent citizens were indicted and punished (Henry Montford, brother-in-law of Willie Jones, was indicted, but he was not convicted). Reading Blount was under censure because he had signed some of the illegal grants. Since his action appeared to be due to ignorance of the fraudulent claims and no evidence of his having accepted either gifts or awards being found, he was freed of charges. John W. Moore, *History of North Carolina From the Earliest Discoveries to the Present Time* (2 vols. Raleigh: Alfred Williams and Co., 1880.) I, 375 *State Records of North Carolina*, XVIII, 73.

²²William R. Davie. See above, p. 29, n. 47 (1777-1782).

Tob°. nor Corn Come to Town, but hope Shall be able to Send you a few barrels of Corn when the boat Returns. The two Hh^{ds}. of under Tob°. was 30/ PrC^t [Pr cwt?] the Rest a 45/ which is the Current price here, all money; and's very hard to be got at that. have Sent one box of window Glass which Shall Charge to Yr. Store, Tell Cox [Coart] wev'e nothing fit to make a mourning Gown without pernellows will do.—we want Shot & Lead Iron & Steel Cotten Cards and Gun flints.—Cap^t. Scott takes down a kegg of Sallery [celery?] from M^{rs}. Ingles. for M^{rs} Blount.—Billey Williams begg leave to take a Coat off of Some of the Cloth in the Store.—I am Sir

Yr. Humble Servant

CHARLES GERRARD.

Addressed: J. G. Blount Esqr.

Merch^t.

Washington

James Aiken to John Gray Blount

[PHILADELPHIA, February 26, 1787]

Mr John Gray Blount

Dr Sir

I have taken the Liberty Through the Recommendation of my friend Mr James Stuart²³ of the City of Philadelphia who hands you this, to Inclose you a bill of Sale of Two Negroe Women & Children, Which you would much oblige me by Disposing of them to the best Advantage for my Interest, after deducting your Commission you will please pay the Neat proceeds to Mr James Barr & his Receipt Shall be a sufficient Voucher Against Dr Sir Your Obedient Humble

Serv^t

JAMES AIKEN

Peneader

Febr 26th 1787

P S Please if possible to git the Wenches good places as Know them to be good House Wenches & also write me Addressed to the Care of Mr James Stuart Philad^a

Addressed: Mr. John Gray Blount

Merch^t:

Washington

North Carolina

²³The partner of James Barr in the firm Stuart & Barr.

*Bryan & Willcocks*²⁴ to John George [Gray] & Thomas Blount
[Copy]

CORK 28th. February 1787

Mess^{rs}. John George & Tho^s. Blount
Gentlemen

Your Tho^s. Blount Esqr. did our William Willcocks the pleasure of the enclosed last Month in London, where they spent many agreeable Hours together. we therefore are happy in the opportunity of tendering you our best services in this City, and will be happy to receive your commands, which shall always be attended to with the utmost Attention to your Interest—Flaxseed is not likely to answer this year as we fear too much will be poured into this Kingdom, a great deal is already arrived & much more expected, the prices in Dublin & here from 65/ to 60/ P Hhd: We sold the beginning of this Month a Cargo of good Phil^a. Barrel Staves at £7 P M[.] Inferior Quality are worth £5..10 a £6..10 &, all White Oak, Red will by no means answer—Tobacco such as the best James's River is worth 13½^d a 16½^d P lb Duty light Weak Tobacco or Lug such as the Maryland will not suit this Market—Pot Ashes of Prime Quality 29/. P Duty free—No Sale for [2] Pitch, Tar, Turpentine or Rozon, Deer Skin very dull at 14^d. to 20^d. P lb—We hope the price of Tobacco will rise as our Gover^t. are doing all in their power to prevent Smuggling, in which we hope they will succeed, with great respect we remain on all occasions—Gentlemen

Your most Obed^t. hum^l Serv^{ts}.

BRYAN & WILLCOCKS

[*William Blount to John Gray Blount*]

NEWYORK March 1st. 1787.

I have shewn to Mr. Gardoqui²⁵ the Certificate I obtained from the Govrnor and asked him if it was probable that any Contract could be made by JG & T.B. with the Agent of the Court to sup-

²⁴Merchants in Cork, a city in southern Ireland.

²⁵Diego de Gardoqui was sent by Spain to Philadelphia in 1774. He was very active in promoting Spanish interests in the old southwestern territory of the United States. Lawrence Kinnard, ed., *Spain in the Mississippi Valley, 1765-1791* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1946. Published as Part II of Volume III of *The American Historical Association's Reports*), II, ix.

ply his Court, with Naval Stores for a few years.—To this he answer'd in the affirmative provided a Treaty was once formed between his Court & the United States and [upon?] that event taking place he would undertake the Negociation of of the Business and that untill that period should arrive Nothing could be done about such a Contract. Now when this Period will arrive is uncertain: it is also doubtful whether it will ever arrive; I have some reasons to believe it will not happen in the days of Mr. Gardoqui.—

I have also shown it to Mr. DeLaforest the Consul General Resident here of his most Christian Majesty and signafied to him our Wish to make a Contract to supply annually to the Navy of France a certain quantity of Pitch, Tar & Turpentine. This Gentleman in my Opinion is the best informed and most industrious servant that any European Power has in America and at the Same Time the best Friend of America ever endea- [2] endeavouring to blend so together the Inters't of each as to be beneficial to both. He was much pleased with the proposals but could give no positive Answer adding that he was uninformd how the Navy of france was supplied with those Articles as well as of the Value of those Articles made in America. But very obligingly said and I am sure with great Sincerity, that if I would procure from the State of North Carolina an Account of the quantity of those articles exported from N^o. Car^a. in the years 1785 & 1786 that he would transmit it to the Court and that he was sure the Court would give a Preference to those Articles made in America provided they should be found on Examination to answer her purposes as well as advised if a Contract was wished to be made and which he should be glad to see take place, that three Barrells of Tar, and as like quantity of Pitch, Turpentine & Rosin should be sent to him here with a Certificate under the seal of the State that it is agreeable to the Laws of that State as to quantity and quality and that he will cause them to be shiped in the French Packet addressed to certain Persons in France to be examined and reported on to the Minister of Marine & that if Proposals were made to him [3] he would at the same Time forward them to the Court and do every thing that he consistently could to serve Us in the Business—

Whereupon I wrote to the Governor and requested him to order the Naval Officers of the different ports to transmit without delay to the delegates in Congress an Account of all the Ex-

ports from N. C^a. for the years 1785 and 1786 since when Mr. Laforest has informed me that the Reports from the respective Naval Officers should be made to the Governor and be by him certified under the Seal of the State and last Evening he called on me and informed that a Packet would sail from this on the 15th of April in which he should go Passenger renewing his Declaration of wishing to see such a Contract take place and that as he should be in France perhaps if be the proposals were forwarded by him it would be more in his power to forward it—I fear you will say that the 15th of April will come too soon but I hope not, The greatest difficulty I apprehend in the Business will [be] to get the proper Certificates of the Exports properly authenticated by the Governor and this I think the Governor could cause to be done in a short Time and I am sure the Interest of that State will be perfectly considered [4] in the Act especuallly if a Contract be thereby produced and this reason alone will no doubt induce the Governor to give every dispatch in his power to the Business.—

Take Care that the Samples are good and in *good* barrels—Hawkins says they should be branded with your firm in plain Letters and I believe he is right—When you Ship them address them to Mr. John Ramsay of whose Honesty I entertain the highest Opinion tho' he has been unfortunate.

Another Packet will sail on the 15th June for France so that if you cannot be ready for the first you may for the second.

Will you cause this Letter to be copied thus far and send a Copy thereof to the Governor in his *private* Capacity to the End that it may in some degree govern him in his Public [capacity]—Ashe is not yet arrived and I do not expect him. Hawkins does daily. Nothing is yet done with the Tobacco—I shall leave this between the 10 & 15th April by Water. The Mill stones will be procured by Etting & Varick by the 1st. May—

[No conclusion].

Thomas Blount to [William Blount]

LONDON March 7th 1787

Dear Sir,

The papers you committed to the care of Mr. Orchard are safe to hand—I rec^d. them ten days after writing you by the Packet

of last Month & immediately entered on the execution of Mrs. Hills power of Attorney—The Legacy bequeathed to Abednego Hudson, together with his part [of the Residue] of the Legators Estate amounting in all to nearly three thousand pounds, is lodged in the Bank of England, in the names of the Executors, in Trust and at present there appears to be no obstacle to my recovering it for his Widow, but the want of authenticity in Mr. Ellis certificate concerning his death—the Validity of the other papers is yet undisputed, & could that one circumstance be proved to the satisfaction of Mr. Robert Hudson, the surviving Executor, I have no doubt but he would pay me the Money without going to Law—The affidavit of Cap^t. George Dennison properly attested would answer every purpose, therefore I beg you to send it me with all possible expedition— or, in case it cannot be readily obtained, to prevent [2] delay, get Mr. Ellis to swear to what he has certified & perhaps that alone may do— You may too, if you can, tho' 'tis not absolutely necessary, strengthen the proof of Abednegos having died without Issue & his widows right of Inheritance. In the mean time, to facilitate the Business, I shall file a Bill in Chancery which my Attorney [thinks] is the only thing necessary to be done till I hear from you again—this information you may communicate to Mrs. Hill—I have now before me your favors of the 14th & 22^d Jan^y & 9th Feb^y. all which I rec^d. since yesterday Morning I wrote J.G.B. very fully by the November packet, & again on the 20th of the same Month, via, Norfolk advising him by all means to speculate largely in Tob^o. if he could get it of a good quality at 30/ Cur^y. or under on a long Credit; — I rejoice to find that without receiving those Letters he had on the 13th Jan^y. determined to load the Brig John to France on our own acco^{ts}.—It will be infinitely more advantageous to us to be $\frac{1}{2}$ or even $\frac{1}{4}$ Concerned in the purchase of the Public Tob^o. on the terms it was offered to Doct. Romaine, than it would have been to have had the whole on Consignment, as the [3] Merch^{ts}. Commission in France is not an object worthy of a Strangers attention—therefore J.G.B. may rest assured that the Babbling of Doctor Leigh²⁶ has injured his Interest only in a political Sense—

Should the purchase be made in the terms you mention, the Tobacco must be insured here, or at the port of its destination & come forward with, or immediately after the Bill otherwise

²⁶Dr. John Leigh of Edgcombe County. Thomas had inadvertently informed him of the Blounts' expectation of securing a consignment of the public tobacco. See John Gray Blount to Thomas Blount [Copy], Washington, April 8, 1787, below, p. 278.

[it would] be extremely dangerous to accept them—the order for Insurance must be very particular & if timely sent, may come directed to me at this place—I can then have it made in any port that may be thought most eligible—I shall wait here for the further orders of JGB not think of leaving Europe without his positive command—The information required in your letter of 22^d. Jan^y. I will endeavor to procure & send you by the next conveyance—pray write me by every packet at least. Remember me to your Colleagues, Col Ashe & my friend Hawkins & believe me

Your affectionate Bro.

THO. BLOUNT

[4]

Mr. Eyre²⁷ is still in prison & will remain there till the expiration of two Calendar Months when in spite of Fate he must be a Bankrupt. poor Skipwith is inevitably ruined.—

T. B. —

Charles Gerrard to John Gray Blount

TARBOROUGH March 7th. 1787

Sir

You'll receive by the Tarborough packet 15 barrels of Corn, 51 pieces bacon 450^{ct} and 11 Hh.^{os}. Tob^o. three of them were refused which Stands first on the manifest N^o. 381 and the transfer is exceeding good only a little too high in Case.—In the Invoice Sent up there was 7 Hh^{ds}. Molasses mentioned, but only 6 Came to hand, the F. [French] Brandy leek't very much out of 6 or 7 keggs, some not more than ½ Gallon left in, the other articles appear to have Come pretty Safe.—

The boat is to take in at Mr. Bells a Cask of Tob^o. 500^{wt} for which I'm to give [in exchange?] all goods, the Three Refused Hh^{ds}. was [payable in?] mostly goods.—besure and let us have plenty of molasses, Iron, N. England Rum, Nails, Shot, and Cotton Cards; but no. more wool Cards. have Sent one lock a 35/ I've furnished Keays²⁸ with Some articles which Shall Charge

²⁷See Thomas Blount to [John Gray Blount], London, January 3d, 1787, above, p. 234.

²⁸Probably Nathan Keais, collector of customs at Port Bath.

to washington Store and would be glad to Know if I'm right in
leting him have things at this Store

I am Sir yours &c.

CHARLES GERRARD

Addressed: J. G. Blount Esqr.

Mercht.

Washington

William Blount to John Gray Blount

NEWYORK March 8th 1787

Dear Sir,

This Morning your's of the 11th Febr'y. inclosing T.B.'s
[Thomas Blount's] of the 20th November and am really much
concerned for his Situation.

A few Minutes before I received it I had delivered to Mr.
Smith the brother in law of Mr. Eyre who sails this day for
London, a Letter for T. Blount in which I had advised him to
return to America and not to wait the Arrival of the Brig John
in France but on the Receipt of yours and his Letter I again
wrote him and told him that I thought he had best wait your
Order and that you would certainly shortly relieve him. Noth-
ing decisive can shortly be done by the Delegates in the sale
of the Tobacco but it appears to me very certain that Mr. Robert
Morris *must* be the Purchaser and if he is I have not [2] any
doubt but you'll be able so to agree with him that he will let
us have 100/ Hogsheads on the Terms on which he purchases
the whole and I would really advise you as the Tobacco is in
your Possession²⁹ to make use of the quantity you want relying
that you shall have the qauntity at the price the other sells at
let who will become the Purchaser, it must go cheap because you
may rely that no adventurer will be able to get it by bidding in
a high price for [it] before it goes out of our Hands you may
rely we shall have the most unequivacal Proofs of our being
paid—How far the Farmers General have been supplied with
Tobacco I can get no Information but this you may rely on that
whatever can be done by my Friend Delaforest in our favour

²⁹He refers to the public tobacco (320 hogsheads) stored in the Blount's warehouse in Washington. *State Records of North Carolina*, XX, 625. The legislature had authorized the delegates of North Carolina in Congress to dispose of the tobacco early in January, 1787. *State Records of North Carolina*, XX, 602-3, 613. See above, p. 238, n. 8.

will be done on that Head for us.— [3] If you should wish to have [any?] more or the whole of the Tobacco at Washington let me know by Letter for I will not quit Congress untill this business is closed—At present I do n[ot] See that it will be in our power to sell the Tobacco untill we are informed officially where the Tobacco is stored and the quantity and quality at each place.

I am, Your's

W^m. BLOUNT

Addressed: Mr. John Gray Blount

Washington

Free W^m. Blount

Thomas Blount to John Gray & Thomas Blount

LONDON March 10th 1787.

Gentlemen,

By letters just rec^d. from Will. Blount of the 14th & 22^d. Jan^y. & 9th Feb^y., I find that the Wiseacres, who compose the Legislature of N^o. Carolina, instead of Shipping their Tobacco, as they ought to have done, have vested the power of Selling it in the hands of their Delegates in Congress; which gives you a fair opportunity of making the Speculation I advised in my Letters of the 1st. & 20th November—and from your determination to load the John on your own account I am induced to hope you will not miss it.

Could it be had now at the price it was offer'd to Doctr. Romaine, say 26/ or even 28/ Cur^y., & on the same Credit, payable in France at a stipulated exchange between Currency & Livres, I think you might safely venture to take half the Contract, provided the Exchange is not fixt too high—for on that the goodness or badness of the Contract will in a great measure depend.—The Bills I presume are to be made payable at ce[r-tain] stated periods from the date—if so, the Holder will have no Interest in sending them forward bef[ore] they are nearly due, which will be a great advantage to you, unless you can negotiate th[e]m on me; because no Merchant [2] in Europe would accept them without having the property in hand—or—what is tantamount—your order for Insurance, accompanied by a Bill of Lading for Property worth a third more than the

amount of the Sum drawn for—and draw on whom you will the Insurance must be made here or in France to guard against the evil consequences that might otherwise result from a loss—I beg leave to observe too that your order for that purpose should be fully descriptive of the Vessel & Cargo, & very explicit as to the time of her Sailing—You may draw on me & Consign to whom you please, but if you Consign to me you must not draw on another Person—for if you do, your Bills will certainly be protested—and it will be proper to give your order for Insurance to the Person you draw on—If it comes timely to hand I can have it executed, by an order from here, in any Port you may please to direct; therefore it will be best (if you can so contrive it) to throw the whole Business into my hands, & in that case it will make no difference whether the Bills come forward sooner or later—The estimate I sent you on the 20th Nov^r. was made at 2#. [francs?] 10 Sous from the Sales of a Cargo sent from the eastern shore of Maryland & good Virginia has been si[nce] sold to average 36#. so that for Carolina I thin[k] you may reasonably expect to get 34#.—The p[rice] given at L'orient—by the Fermiers General is [t]hirty Sous P100^{wt}. less than [3] they give at Bourdeaux, Nantz, Harve, or Morlaix—owing to its not being a Port of delivery—But as a Compensation for that loss, you have frequent opportunities of selling to Smugglers who buy only the best quality & will often give as high as 45, or 50#. therefore unless you wish for a return Cargo of Wine or Brandy, I think it the best Port you can send to—You cannot be too cautious in examinig your Tobacco before you ship it, & by all means let it be put on board in good order, for when it is found to be the least damaged the allowance made to the purchaser is astonishingly great.—I now anxiously wait for your Commands to repair to France to meet the John & am pleased with the expectation that she will have sailed before this reaches you—I shall discharge your Debt to Fulwar Skipwith & C^o. out of the first Money I get, deeming it absolutely necessary for the good of your Interest & the preservation of your Credit to close the acco^t. as speedily as possible—Their Situation is truly [lam]entable, for they have neither Money nor Credit the author of their Misfortune (Mr. Eyre) has been now nearly two months a prisoner in the Kings Bench whence he can never be released but by the Statute of Bankruptcy. [4] Let me now say something about the Business of M^{rs}. Hill—The Legacy has been lodged in the Bank of England

for several years & including the residue, amounts to nearly £ 3,000—which I believe I could recover without much difficulty, if I had authentic proof of the death of the Legatee, and as that can best proved by the affidavit of Captain George Dennison I wish you to send it to me, properly attested, by the first conveyance—or, in case he is not in the Country, to prevent delay, get Mr. Ellis to swear to his Certificate & send me that—perhaps it may then be admitted as proof. In the mean time I shall take the necessary steps to bring the Business to a speedy issue—Mrs. Gunson is yet alive & if I get the Legacy I would advise Mrs. Hill to purchase her Annuity—this is written for Mrs. Hills perusal, you will therefore please shew it her & let me know her further request, which I conceive will answer just as well as writing her in a more formal manner. This Business appears to be [w]ell worth my serious attention & while there is a prospect of success I shall not relinquish the persuit—I shall continue in Europe till you positively order me away, if [5]if for that purpose only—in future direct for me to the care of Messrs. Alex^a. & Benja^a. Contee, Merch^{ts}. N^o. 2 Crescent, London—With due respect to all, I am,

as heretofore

Yours

THO. BLOUNT

Addressed: Messr. John G. & Tho. Blount

Mercht^s.

Washington

N^o. Carolina

P The Planter

Cap^t. Arthur

Care of Messrs Cowpers

Portsmouth Virg^a.

John Gray & Thomas Blount to [Stuart & Barr]

Copy*

WASHINGTON March 11^t. 1787.

Gent^m.

Yours of 14th. Feb^y. is to hand by the Post Masr & what has delayd it we cannot account, the time by you set for making

*This was either an unmailed letter or a copy which the Blounts retained for a memorandum.

alterations in the Brig is so short it cannot be accomplish'd and could it be done, it is quite too low as the alterations you wish would cost here at least 1200 Dollars

We are with much esteem
your most Obd^t.

J. G. & THO. BLOUNT

John Cowper to John Gray Blount

PORTSMOUTH 11th. March 1787

Mr. John G Blount

Sir

I have the pleasure to Inform you of the safe Arrival of your Brig John at this place all well on yesterday afternoon—it has not been in my power as yet to dispose of her Cargoe the most I was offered yesterday was 7/6 but I hope tomorrow to produce 8/6 this being sunday—I shall Attend to your Instructions and Interest in this Business—Our Tonnage is Dam-able as you term it, and really such as the Trade cannot support, it is paid down at the entry of the Vessell—

Your Pans & Cheese you must Debit Mess^r. Pennok. Shipwith & Nicolson [2] as they have never been sent down from Richmond, and I presume are lost in the fire there—our Serchers are very vigilant and not to be bribed as yet, having not learnt there [their] business this I have no doubt will be the case some time hence. If you could have Allowed your Brig to have gone directly on to Europe with the Tar I believe I could have sold it for 9/ and 6/ freight—it will by no Means do to Store it at this season of the Year it being the worst month to Keep Tar On hand—I return you thanks for the Courses of Pratt's Land—Will it be in your power to Command any Money for Col^o. Parker shortly. I shall Write you again by Next post [3] In the Interem remain

Dr. Sir

Your Ob^t Set

JOHN COWPER

P. S. can you tell how or in what Situation Maxwells Plantation is now held, weither [whether] it has been sold by the State or Not. the House of Eyre Bowdorn & Smith of this State have a

Mortgage on it from Maxwell as far Back as April or May 1767 and duly recorded in Edenton—If this Mortgage is Prior to Sprowles the Land will be Subject to it

Addressed: John G. Blount

Mercht.

Washington

William Blount to John Gray Blount

NEWYORK March 12th 1787

Dear Sir,

Yesterday and the day before H [Benjamin Hawkins] & myself had Conversations with the individual Members of the board of Treasury and also with Duer their Secretary and they (as a board) wish the Tobacco [to] be sold to raise Mony to pay the June Interest in Holland and say a Credit may be given as late as November provided the payment is m'de in Bills that can be discounted in Holland in June—Constable Rucker & Co. of which Morris is one will I expect offer us 26/4 per 100 Ct Weight in this Kind of payment and I think cannot be offered by any Man who means to pay for it and it will not be sold to no Man for no price however high without we have the greatest Certainty of the Mony—It will be in my power I believe to get such part of the purchase as I please at present I only think of 100 Hogshead and I repeat that you may venture to use that quantity.—

[2] George Ogg tells me in a Letter of this day to hand dated 25th Feby at Augusta [Georgia] that he has received only 4000 Ct Weight deer skins from Ward, which were then priging for Shipment to the Northward agreeable to Orders—and that the Titles to our Lands³⁰ [was accompyd?] and would be forwarded to you by James Williams late of Hillsboro to Hillsboro. I suppose—There's a Suit of the Agents of the Privaters against T & T. O. [Thomas & Titus Ogden] Which I suppose will prob-

³⁰This seems to verify the charges that William Blount had bought land with the goods intended to secure grants from the Indians for the state, although Blount emphatically denied (October 9, 1786) that he had purchased any land at Hopewell and insisted that he had not purchased any after June, 1785. *State Records of North Carolina*, XVIII, 767-768.

ably be brought on at the Next Court at New Bern perhaps it
Might be as well if you should attend to it—

Your's &c

W^m.. BLOUNT

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire

Washington

By Captain Rogers

Free W^m.. Blount

John Haywood to [John Gray Blount]

[TARBOROUGH, March 14, 1787]

Sir,

Your Letter of yesterday together with its enclosures was last Evening handed me; you may be assured I shall pay particular attention to the Business you have therein committed to me, as Soon as I become possessed of Fenners Papers which has not yet happened; I can however get them at any time and will if it makes any difference with you (who are the only person who have applied) do so before I go to Hillsborough, to which place I set out on Sunday next.

I am told, but with what truth I know not, that the grand Jury at Warrenton presented our Friend Reading [Blount]; it was not then public for which reason I have mentioned it to no one here or elsewhere, but now take the liberty of doing so lest you should be ignorant of it, and perhaps it may be necessary that some Measures should befall on in consequence of such a procedure.

Be so good as to tell Capt. Keais I spoke to Mr. Hunt concerning the order which I declined taking of [2] of him, that Mr. Hunt said he would pay it, if he does so, let the Capt. know I will then place it to his credit, if not I will return him the order when I come down which will be in april.

I send you Voltaire's Memoires and remain with the Sincerest Respect & Esteem

Your Friend & Sert.

J. HAYWOOD

March 14. 1787

Be pleased, when you think of little else, to make my most respectful Conps. to M^{rs}. Blount & my friends Howd'ye to Tom
Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire

Now at
Tarborough

Philip Reilly³¹ to John Gray Blount

WASHINGTON 15th. March 1787

Sir

Sometime ago I receiv'd a Letter from my Brother who lives in Havre du Grace in France, wherein he has made me an Offer of Credit, and as I want to go home this Spring, I have to propose to you that if you can supply me with 25 or 30 Hhds Tobacco (without discommoding yourself) I would give you real Security for the Amount, with Interest from the date of Delivery, and I would engage to let you have Goods on my Return at such an Advance as we would fix on now,—If you can serve me in this Matter, it would be obliging me very essentially, & no Injury could result to you as you should be put in possession of the Property,—My Intention is to go with Captain Laughead, and I'm Confident, I could refund you your Money by his Return which I flatter myself would be in all August—Should it be convenient for you to serve me in this Matter, I shall always retain a grateful Acknowledgement of the same, & your Answer to M^r. Ellis will much Oblige

Sir

Your most Obed^t Serv^t

PHILIP REILLY

My Brother has had a Capital of £ 45,000 Stlg advanced him for 6 Years without Interest, & its Commencement has been since the peace—

John G. Blount Esq^r.

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r.

Present

³¹Reilly apparently lived near John Gray Blount. See Daniel Wardrop to John Gray Blount, Petersburg, May 3, 1788, below, p. 390.

*John Cowper to John Gray Blount*PORTSMOUTH March 15th. 1787

Dr Sir

I yesterday sold your Tar (not before we had landed a bout 140 barrels at the low price of 8/. P. barrel and the Turpentine at 8/6. be assured Sir that this was the most that Could be done. The Turpentine I was oblig'd to give 6 Under the last price as an Inducement to purchase the Tar[.] Ready Cash is hard to get here. I am to receive the Cash on the delivery of the Cargoe and shall appropriate it as you have directed. The Brig is Now discharging, and Will I hope leave this in four or 5 days. The Tallow is sold at 8^d. the pork and Bacon remain on hand yet, I am in hope [2] to pass it to Mess^r. Pennock Nicolson & Skipwith with respect I am

Sir

your Ob^t Set

JOHN COWPER

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr.

Mercht

Washington

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

EDENTON 15th March 1787

Dear Sir

Inclosed is an Essay which you will be pleased to read & forward it to some Friend in Newbern who will see that it is published. If our Printers who never have any News to give and who through the Lack of better Materials give us the Account of Jews Marriages & such other uninteresting Stuff, if they refuse to publish Essays of this kind, which one solely intended for public Use, I would not give a snuff for them.³² I had intending sending it immediately for Newbern inclosed to Sitgreaves (as P Letter) but the Gentleman is gone by whom I intended to have forwarded it. You may get some safe private Conveyance frequently from Washington. I requested you some Time ago to inform me by whom you had twice written to me

³²Williamson was very much prejudiced against the Jews and wrote disparagingly of them on several occasions.

from Fayette to Halifax. for I would enquire after the Fate of those Letters. Captⁿ. Carpenter will be coming this way within a few days by whom you can write. What is the Price of Tar & Turpentine at or near Washington Can Pipe & Hhd white Oak Staves be procured in any Quantity on those Waters and at what Price. I am

Dr Sir your obed^t Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r
Washington

John Haywood to John Gray Blount

[TARBOROUGH] March 16, 1787

Dear Sir,

I had this day the pleasure of receiving your favour of the 14th Cur^t.—a few days after writing you I Sent an Express to the Governor, requesting his Directions as to the Port to which my public Purchases should be shipped, and received last Evening his Answer; in which he says, that the Printer in furnishing him with the Laws had omitted that part of the one under which I act that enjoins his Duty, and that therefore he could at that time say nothing relative to my shipping the Tobacco, but that he would procure the Act and send me by Express the necessary Instructions as soon as practicable;—if he does not do so by the time you mention, I will then again send to him.—You may perhaps recollect, that the Act in question makes it the Duty of the Gov^r. to apply to the Board of Treasury for advice [2] advice in this particular; if he Should have that yet to do, it will I fear be very long before I can hope to obtain his Instructions; but if it should be already done I have it at this time in my power to furnish a load for one of your Vessels, provided the Governor will permit me to ship so much in one Bottom; he says in his letter “It will not be adviseable to ship much in one Bottom nor to send all to one Market at the same time in case the Tob^o. should be ordered to the Northward.”—As soon as I can possibly obtain the directions of the Governor relative to the Business I will write you by Express, and I wish you to be assured I shall omit no Means within my power to accomplish this desirable end—if he does not before write me, I will send to him certainly on the 21st.

Suffer me most cordially to thank you for the obliging and friendly assurances contained [3] contained in your Letter of the 9th. Inst., and permit me to add, that I have no Wish more at heart than the having it in my power at all times by my Conduct to evince my Gratitude, and to manifest to you, that I am by no means insensible of the Worth of your Friendship.

I am, with every friendly and
respectful Sentiment

Your hum Serv^t.

J. HAYWOOD

Be pleased to offer my best Respects to Jacob & Col^o Thomas.

TARBOROUGH March 16. 1786

If you think it will be long before the Gov^{rs}. directions as to Shipping the Tob^o. are Obtained, perhaps you could send your Vessels on some other Voyage & have them in place time enough to carry the public Tob^o. in the course of the Summer—if I can get it sent time enough to be enabled to Settle my Accot^s. with the next Assem^{ly}. my Wish would be answered.—I wou'd not by any [4] means wish you to detain both your Briggs on my Acc^t. as I have not the whole of the such Tob^o. yet ready—nor do I think it advisable for you to detain either of them too long, but some delay in this Business should be productive of disappointment, you may however rest assured that nothing of that kind in my power to prevent shall take place.

M Blount

16th. March 87

JOHN HAYWOOD

William Duncan to John Gray Blount

AMACABESSA [Jamaica]³³ 17th. March 1787

Dear Sir

The Sally arrivd so late that after waiting here for more than a month I had returned to Montego Bay where I was informed by express of her arrival on the 11th. Inst. As I had totally given her up I have nothing ready to put on board, of her nor indeed as things are cir[cumst]anced am I much inclind to risque property in her as the Brig^t. will be here so soon & is so much pref-

³³See Map, "Ports of Call," p. 175.

able to Ship upon. And [I] also understand by your Letter as well as the Capt^s information that you will have a Load of Herrings & Shingles ready by her return the former I think will do very well & the latter never can come wrong

The fish are in very good order had they been here two Months ago before the Shipping came in, they w^d have brought a great price. Are they not laid in very high at 50/ P bbl? [2] The Staves will neat about £ 10 P M [per thousand] and the Shingles about 45/ this money[.] the fish may bring about prime cost but if they will keep the price is expected to rise, the Tobacco will do very well if I get it Safe to M^o [Montego] Bay three Hhds of the last importation was surveyd and found totally unfitt for use[.] by Next oppertunity you shall have the Sales of that Cargo compleat and [I] hope that of the present Cargo & the Polly's 1st Cargo at the same time—I wish you could avoid sending the Sloop into the Creecks to collect Lumber there is a great waste of time and I do not find there is any allowance made in the price. peese & Corn will be in demand soon & I have a tollerable prospect of Selling to Brigh^{ts}. Cargo in this neighbourhood, as they are now about beginning their Crops, Rum is Scarce & at 2/6—Whilst at M^o. Bay [3] it is plenty at 2/3^d but every Article in the Lumber way is a drug. I agree with you entirely with respect to Davis he will do very well with ones eye over him but will not do out of sight, We Must however I fear put up with him untill we see if the Sloops Register can be renewd I have made several fruitless attempts to that effect—however I do not yet despair let us try her one trip more—pray have her examind I think she appears to be leaky—I am sorry we lost one of the Negroes—but these accidents cannot always be prevented—With respect to the two fellows it's true I had sanguine expectations from them however you will dispose of them as you may Judge for our Mutual advantage.

Urguhart's Letter Amazes me. I give you my word & honor I have never Corresponded w^t Mr. Mallett nor ever had [4] the least Idea of sending any Vessels there I have had enough of that—Witness Mr. Malletts Rotten Shingles.

I wish there may be no Objection made to Cap^t. Smith—Why don't you try to get a European Cap^t.? An American is so easily distinguished that it is really running a risque

The Custos of this Parish befor Whom Haynes's power ought to be prov'd is now at Kingston, but when Smith arives he shall prove it & it shall be punctually forwarded.

I think this little Cargo will Neat about £ 300 this Money after paying Wharfage & other disbursements for the Vessels—There are 5 pairs Shoes at 11/3 to be charged to the Crew the other charges will accomp^y. the Sales—let her come straight here as formerly directed—and pray write me in the Meantime when I may expect her & loose no opportunity.

[5] The Sloop setts off tomorrow morning through the Gulf and [I] set of [off] this Evening on my way to Montego Bay for fear the Brig^{ts}. Sh^d. get there before me which I should be very sorry for

I have only to add that I am Dr Sir

Y^r. very Ob^t Serv^t

W^m DUNCAN

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr.

Washington

N^o. Carolina

P Sloop Sally

Capt. Davis

De la Forest to William Blount and Benjamin Hawkins

NEWYORK the 19th. of March 1787.

Gentlemen

I have the honor to inclose you a note of all the Sums Which I have Received to this day on account of the sum of 5437. 32/96 Dollars due to the navy department of France by the State of North Carolina.³⁴ You will remark that the neat produce of the naval Stores sent to New York and Philad^a. amount only to 660 62/96^{dr}. The situation of that affair being very well Known to you, Gentlemen, I beg that you would represent to His Excellency Governor Caswell how much I am disapointed by delays which the resolution passed in 1783. in your legislature had given no room to apprehend, and that you would induce him to issue another warrant to the treasury towards the final discharge of that debt. The *mode* of remittance has been disavantageous to the State, but the justice of remitting being always [2] of equal Weight, I imagine that His Excellency will be easily brought to give due attention to the extinction of the debt.

³⁴He probably refers to the Martinique transaction. See above, p. 238, n. 8.

any operation which would lodge the neat amount into my hands or the treasurer general of the navy in France is equally acceptable.

I have the Honor to be with grat respect
Gentlemen

Your most obedient humble
Servant
de la FORESTT

the Honorable
Colonels Blunt and Hawkins

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

EDENTON 19th March 1787

Dear Sir

By the last Post I rec^d a Letter from the Gov^r. [Richard Caswell] dated at Newbern on the 14th in which he informs me that Willie Jones³⁵ has declined Serving in the Convention to be held on May next at Philad^a. and that by the Power vested in him by the Act of Assembly he has nominated me as Successor to Mr Jones of which nomination the Council have unanimously approved. I have heard that there was some maneuvering and juggling at the Assembly respecting the Choice of Deputies to attend at the Convention. But not having met with any Member of that Body since acquainted with Business with whom I chose to converse very freely I remain perfectly in the Dark as to the mode of their playing the Game. Yesterday a gentleman told me transiently that he thought I was under some obligations to Col: Ashe & I presume that he may have been repaying me for some Kindnesses which he thought that I in conjunction with some other friends had designed for some of the Judges. Had there been Time I should have taken your Opinion on this Subject before I had given my Answer to the Governor, he desired to know whether he should forward a Commission & Draught on the Col-

³⁵Willie Jones (1741-1801) was a well-known North Carolinian of the time. He was educated in England, but seemed to have acquired more of its social than of its political character. His handsome home, The Grove, was a social and political center for his part of the state. He won the designation of democrat by leading the opponents of the Federal Constitution in the state conventions and in other public matters. He held a number of local offices and at one time was a member of Congress (1781). In the light of the records, it seems a bit extravagant to call him the "most powerful man in the state, the undisputed leader of the democratic element, which was in the ascendant [1774-1784]; . . ." J. G. deR. Hamilton, "Willie Jones," *Dictionary of American Biography*, X (1933), 210-211.

lector. I have written him that I shall accept the [2] the Commission Mr Jn^o Skinner who was with me on some Business when I rec^d the Letter and some other Gentlemen whose Sentiments I respect that I should not refuse the more especially as there is not any Commissioner formerly appointed from this District.³⁶

Col: Davie has apply'd to Benbury to pay him the amo^t of his Draught, 3 Months @ £ 64. which is refused till the Treasurer shall give a special Order. When my Draught comes which the Gov^r says is also to be for £ 192 I shall have occasion for a similar Order. Where is the Treasurer to be found? I shall try in the mean Time whether the money is not to be got without this roundabout ceremony. I am with great Regard

Dr Sir Your obed^t Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

J. G. Blount Esq^r.

[*William Blount and Benjamin Hawkins*] to John Gray Blount

NEWYORK March 20th 1787

Dear Sir,

We this day forward by Post in the Washington Mail, Articles of Agreement entered into between the Delegates in Congress from N^o. Carolina & Constable Rucker & Co for the sale and Purchase of the Public Tobacco together with Copies of all the Letters that the Delegation have written or received respecting the said Tobacco, the whole making a large Package and is addressed to your C[are.] As the Time comme[n]ces in thir[ty] [d]ays from the date of [the] Contract (say from the 16th Instant) for the Delivery of the Tobacco, We request that you will forward the said Packett to the Governor by Express without delay who will pay the Express the Price you may agree for on the Delivery of the Packet—We are with much esteem

Mr. J Gray Blount

Addressed: [John Gr]ay Blount
Washington

³⁶He had been appointed to attend the commercial convention of the states in Annapolis. John Gray Blount was also named as a delegate to this convention.

*Benjamin Hawkins to John Gray Blount*NEW YORK 21st. March 87.

Dear Sir,

I send you enclosed a letter to the Governour which you will please to read and then send forward to him.

You will see in the news-papers proofs of their un interestedness. and I have only to add all information here is of a peace with them.

I have the honour to be

Dear Sir,

Y^{rs}. Sincerely

BENJAMIN HAWKINS

Mr. John Gray Blount

Addressed: John Gray Blount

Free

Benjamin Hawkins

*Joseph Hardy to John Gray Blount*WICACON³⁷ March 22^d 1787

Dr. Sir

I have Inquired about fish and have tryed to sell Your Negroes for Fish but they Seam to hold their fish as high as from 25/ to 30/ P. Barrell tho I am sure that I could Get you £100 a piece for them and 1/4 in hard money or the exchainge at 12/ to the doller or Turpentine at 14/ Tar at 10/ which if you think either of these will do for you and you will write me I will do the best I can for you with Pleasure

I am Dr. Sir Your

Very Humble Serv^t.

J. HARDY

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r:

Merch^t.

Washington

fav^d. by Mr. Blackledge

³⁷Wicacon, North Carolina, is in what is now Hertford County.

*John Cowper to John Gray Blount*PORTSMOUTH [Virginia] March 23^d. 1787John G Blount Esq^r

Sir

This I hope will be handed you by Cap^{tn}. McDaniel of your Brig

The whole of your Tar Turpentine & Tallow are sold Tar 8/ Turpentine 8/6 Tallow 8^d The Pork and hams are on hand but shall avail my self of the first opertunity to sell them[.] I am in Cash for the Tar Turpentine & Tallow and Shall Attend to your Instructions in the disposition thereof, so soon as the Sales are Closed, They, with your Acco^t. Current will be forwarded P Post

Cap^{tn}. McDaniel has taken a quantity of Corn on freight very low. but it was an Inducement to the Shipper, and a great saving of expence and time [2] giting Ballast which is very difficult here—I am

D^r SirYour Ob^t. Se^t

JOHN COWPER

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r.Merch^t.

Washington

Prices C^t.

Tar 8/

Turpentine 9/

Pitch none at Market

Indian Corn 13/P bl—

Fine flour 32/—

S. F. [Second grade flour] D^o. 36/—Rum W^t Indian 3/2 to 3/3Musco Sugar Accord^s to quality 40/ to 52/6

Coffee 2/—

Lumber of all kinds very low in no demand

Micaj. Thomas³⁸ to John Gray Blount

[TARBOROUGH?, March 25, 1787]

Dear Sir

I have lately ingaged a Sum of hard Cash and Should be glad you could favour me with about two hundred Dollars Shortly. As I expect the Sum of mine that you have in hand will be moore than my part of the Land purchased of the Indians will come to. Your Compliance will Much Oblidge Dr. Sir Your Most Obedient Humble

Servant. MICAJ: THOMAS

25th. March 1787

Mr. John G. Blount

Addressed: John G Blount Esquire

Washington

by Fav^r. of Maj^r. Gerrard*John Cowper to John Gray Blount*PORTSMOUTH 25th. March 1787

Dr Sir

The Brig John has very Unfortunately been detain'd here 4 days With a head Wind. she has on board 2500 bushels of Indian Corn on freight the Owner comes round with it in Order to make Sale of it at Washington

Mess^r. Pennock & Co. have directed me to Charter small Vessells to go round to you for about 1000 bl^s Naval Stores. say by return of the post what dispatch can be given them as I may regulate the lay days.³⁹—I am

Sir

Your Ob^t S^t

JOHN COWPER

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^rMerch^t

Washington

³⁸Micaj Thomas of Hillsboro had been a member of the state legislature in 1783. Legislative Papers, Certificates of Election.

³⁹The number of days a vessel would be detained in a port for loading.

*John Cowper to John Gray Blount*PORTSMOUTH March 29th. 1787

Mr. John Gray
Blount
Sir

your Brig John Left this the 26th. and I hope will be with you ere this gets to hand—Tar is now a great Drug down to 7/3 and I am of opinion Will not rise again shortly—I have Chartered one Sloop of about 300 bls for your place on Accot. she will be with you probably in all Next Week they [Fulwar, Skipwith, & Pennock] have directed me to Charter Vessells And send round Equal to the Carriage of 1000 barrels—as I have been Obligated to [2] to Stipulate for but few lay days I must beg you to have the Tar in readiness

No doubt they have wrote you on the Subject—Pray inform me respecting Maxwells Land. I am

Dr Sir

your Ob^t Set

JOHN COWPER

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r.
Mercht.
Washington

*Thomas Blount to John Gray & Thomas Blount*LONDON Ap^l. 4th 1787.

Gentlemen,

I wrote you on the 10th March P the Ship Planter Capt. Arthurs, & enclosed you Copy of an Attachment, that day put into my hands at the instance of James Warington for £600 against the property of Fulwar Skipwith & C^o. in the hand of John K. & Tho. Blount & I have now to inform you that I am this moment served with two others of a similar nature—one at the instance of Charles Biggar for £800. the other at the instance of W^m. Stevenson for £500 both dated the 8th March. —How far this procedure may be consistent with Law or custom I am yet ignorant, having been prevented by indisposition, from
21 making the necessary enquiry—I would therefore advise you by

all means to refuse making any Payments but through my hands, as making them thro' any other Channel might possibly & not improbably make you liable for the amo^t. of the attachments—I must again remind you that France is the proper place to remit [2] to— & the sooner your remittances get there the better—I shall certainly be there to receive them & when they get into my hands you may rest assured that I will make a proper use of them—I have been extremely ill for several days & am not yet able to leave my room—my Complaint is a violent lax attended with intermitting fevers—such as I had in the Winter of '84 & Spring of '85—at present I have neither time or strength to say more than that I am with due Respect—

Your affectionate

Brother—

THO. BLOUNT

Addressed: John G & Tho. Blount

Washington

N^o. Carolina

p Packet

via,

New York

William Blount to John Gray Blount

NEWYORK April 5th 1787

I have this Morning wrote to Thomas Blount and informed him that I had purchased of Constable, Rucker & Co for the 100 Hogsheads of Tobacco and added that I believed you meant to send the Brig John to France to his address and that you would draw on him in their favour for the purchase Mony—I wrote him this Morning by William Bayard who is gone in the English Packet.

Constables Agent will soon be on and will deliver you the Tobacco and *under the Rose* [confidentially] he wishes you to get the best as he has sold the whole of it I believe to one Lacase for the Farmers General⁴⁰—What he has made by his sale I am uninformed but I hope and believe something clever—

⁴⁰Robert Morris of Philadelphia, a member of the Constable-Rucker firm of New York, had a contract with the Farmers General of France. The Farmers General had a monopoly from the king for which they paid 20,000 livres in revenue. *Governors' Papers* (North Carolina Department of Archives and History), XIII, 83, 90, 92.

Your Mill stones will be down here by the first of May and the first Opportunity will be embraced to forward them to you by my Friend Mr. John Ramsay. I believe I shall not leave this before the 1st. of May, I have sundry reasons for it tho' my wishes are very great to be in Carolina

Your's Sincerely

W^m. BLOUNT

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire

Washington

Free William Blount

James Robertson⁴¹ to William Blount

NASHVILLE [Tennessee] April 7th. 1787

Dear Sir—

On my return to this Country I find it involved in a war with the Chickamagua's which seems to threaten the most disagreeable consequences & without some timely Assistance I fear will be productive of the ruin of the Settlement—

From your known friendship to us I beg you will use all your influence with the Governor to forward out some immediate assistance either by hurrying out the Troops or such others as may seem to him expedient as I have no hopes of getting peace by any other means than by carrying war into the Indian Country & reducing them to it which I think those troops & our Militia will be able to perform—I have wrote to the Chief but can receive no answer & they appear determined by the daily mischief they are committing to perservere

No Surveying has been done for some time past nor is there any probability of doing any while the war continues

I am with respect

Your most Hum^l. Serv^t.

JAMES ROBERTSON

Addressed: The Hon^{ble}. William Blount

or Col. John G. Blount—

Washington Town

fav^d. my Capt. Lanier N^o. Carolina

⁴¹James Robertson (1742-1814) was a Virginian by birth. From Virginia he went with his family to live in Wake County, North Carolina, until 1771, when he joined a caravan of migrants to the West. He was one of the pioneer leaders of the old Southwest and had an active part in the Watauga Association and in the founding of Nashville, Tennessee. He served as a commissioner for a number of Indian treaties and was closely associated with William Blount when the latter became governor of the territory in the southwest. Carl S. Driver, "James Robertson," *Dictionary of American Biography*, XVI (1935), 24-25.

*John Cowper to John Gray Blount*PORTSMOUTH April 7th. 1787

Dr. Sir

yours of the 1st Int. this moment Came to hand. and Just timely enough to stop a small Vessell I was sending round to you for Tar on account of Mess^s. Pennack & Skipwith & you may Not expect that I shall Charter any for that Purpose—Pray hurry your Brig or some other Vessell with Tar round again for in Consequence of a Promise from Mess P. N. & S [Pennock, Nicholson & Skipwith] I have borrowed for them 800 barrels to be replaced in 3 Week (one Week of Which is elapsed) and there [their] dependance is on you—that Article is down at from 7/3 to 7/6 some Credit and I believe it will not Shortly rise—Col^o. Parker wrote you respecting [2] his debt from the State and begs you answer—Indian Corn is as low here as 12/6 P barrel West India Produce of Every Kind scare & Dear[.] Tob^o. as low sale owing to the scarcity of Cash—I am
DSir

Your Ob^t. Set

JOHN COWPER

Addressed: John G Blount Esquire
Washington

John Gray Blount to Thomas Blount
[Copy]*

WASHINGTON April 8th. 1787.

Dr Tom

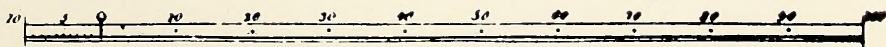
We have now in the hands of Wells and John Cowper in Cash I expect about two Hundred Pounds Sterling which have directed them to remit to you immediately

The Public Tob^o. is at last sold at 26/8 And we shall get 100 Hhd^s. at that price & pay by Bills on the Tob^o. this I intend for France and shall write you more fully respecting it shortly. If things succeed to my wish shall remit Skipwith via Jamaica 2000 Doll^s. shall pay him in Virginia 2000 more & shall either ship to France or pay him in Virginia 50 Hhd^s. Tob^o. exclusive of the 100[.] I [2] I recommend that you stay until you again hear from me but make no mention of the purchase of the 100

*This was either a copy or a letter, which for some reason was not mailed.



MILES



*John Cowper to John Gray Blount*PORTSMOUTH April 7th. 1787

Dr. Sir

yours of the 1st Int. this moment Came to hand. and Just timely enough to stop a small Vessell I was sending round to you for Tar on account of Mess^s. Pennack & Skipwith & you may Not expect that I shall Charter any for that Purpose—Pray hurry your Brig or some other Vessell with Tar round again for in Consequence of a Promise from Mess P. N. & S [Pennock, Nicholson & Skipwith] I have borrowed for them 800 barrels to be replaced in 3 Week (one Week of Which is elapsed) and there [their] dependance is on you—that Article is down at from 7/3 to 7/6 some Credit and I believe it will not Shortly rise—Col^o. Parker wrote you respecting [2] his debt from the State and begs you answer—Indian Corn is as low here as 12/6 P barrel West India Produce of Every Kind scare & Dear[.] Tob^o. as low sale owing to the scarcity of Cash—I am
DSir

Your Ob^t. Set^t

JOHN COWPER

Addressed: John G Blount Esquire
Washington

John Gray Blount to Thomas Blount
[Copy]*

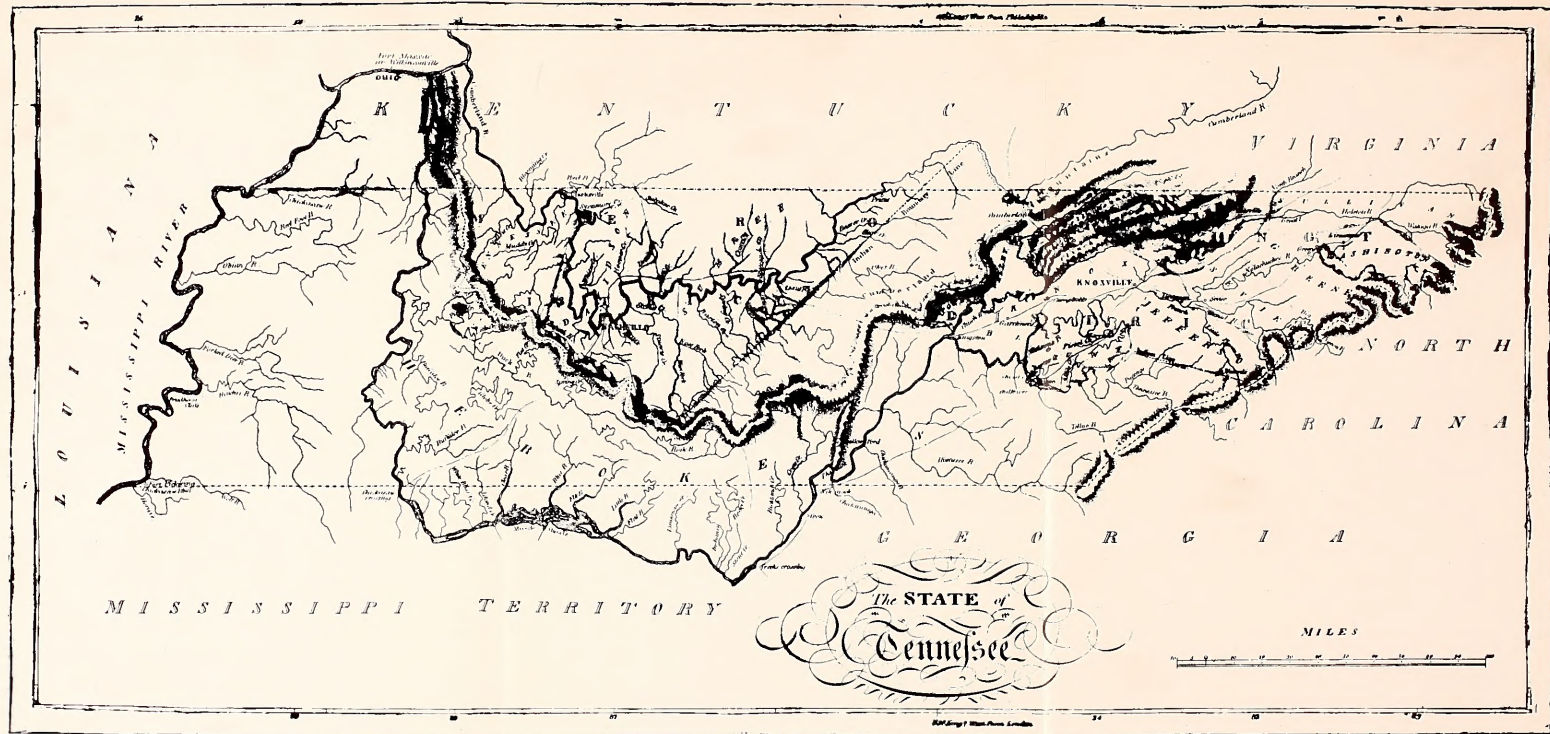
WASHINGTON April 8th. 1787.

Dr Tom

We have now in the hands of Wells and John Cowper in Cash I expect about two Hundred Pounds Sterling which have directed them to remit to you immediately

The Public Tob^o. is at last sold at 26/8 And we shall get 100 Hhd^s. at that price & pay by Bills on the Tob^o. this I intend for France and shall write you more fully respecting it shortly. If things succeed to my wish shall remit Skipwith via Jamaica 2000 Doll^s. shall pay him in Virginia 2000 more & shall either ship to France or pay him in Virginia 50 Hhd^s. Tob^o. exclusive of the 100[.] I [2] I recommend that you stay until you again hear from me but make no mention of the purchase of the 100

*This was either a copy or a letter, which for some reason was not mailed.



Hhd^s. to any Person, your telling Doctr. Leigh why you stay'd was the sole cause of your not geting the consignment of the whole. The Winter has been so warm that Woolens have had a bad sale I would not wish next Fall more than 500 £ Ster^{lg}. that mostly in nails Osnaburgs & a few other things[.] I at present think it will be best you go to France to sell the Tob^o.

We are all well & send love

As usual

J G. BLOUNT

Addressed: Mr. Thomas Blount
London

E Harris⁴² to John Gray Blount

ROWAN COUNTY April 10th 1787

Sir/

Agreable to your request I have sent you the plans of the two large tracts of land I surveyed for you on the Obion and head of Looshatchie [Tennessee area]. The other surveys exclusive of the large survey made by Mr. [Griffith] Rutherford, lye chiefly about or near the forks of Obion scattered among other surveys.⁴³

The surveys in the south fork of Obion include the low-grounds on each side the river, as you may perceive from the plan, and runs out some distance into the highlands. The low lands appeared to be equal to any I surveyed in that country, and the high lands as good as commen of the same kind Those on Looshatchie and Indian-creek are generally very rich land except those lying on the ridge between the two water courses which are of some lower quality.

In surveying we were very particular in marking a number of trees about every corner, particularly the stations, of which two trees are mintied in the returns, the others but one. Each of the corner trees is marked HE though not always mentioned in the bill of the plot.

You may recollect I informed you of some of your entrys for which [2] you had not received warrants; which you concluded to relinquish. I have an opportunity of procuring certificates

⁴²Harris was apparently an official surveyor in the Tennessee area.

⁴³See Map of Tennessee on opposite page.

sufficient to redeem a number of them and would be glad you would not relinquish them untill the next session of Assembly that I may get transfers from you for them; unless some other opportunity offers you by which I may obtain the fees for surveying.—

I spoke to Mr Rutherford to send you a plan of his large survey for you, which probably he has done.—

I am yours sincerely

E. HARRIS

Addressed: John Gray Blount, Esq.
Beaufort County

John Brown⁴⁴ to John Gray Blount

[WILMINGTON] April 11th. 1787—

Sir/

I just rec^d your favour of the 18th Ult. with an Order inclosed on Malletts & C^o. for £39..6.—which I immediately presented, they acknowledged they were indebt to you. but told me they could not pay it before their Schooner arrived from the West Indies, which will be in the course of this Month. If they will then perform their promise it will do very well, otherwise should wish to return it. I am much obliged to you for sending this Order, but I was always convinced that your word was better than three fourths of our Wilmington Peoples bonds—my being in Charleston prevented my getting your Letter sooner or would have wrote before—I remain, with the greatest respect for yourself & Family

Your most oblig'd hble Serv^t.

JOHN BROWN

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r.
Washington

⁴⁴No further information concerning John Brown has been found.

*John Smith⁴⁵ to John Gray Blount*BRIG^{nt}. POLLY PORT, MARIA April 11th 87

Sir

After the passage of Sixteen Days. I Arrived In montego bay. from that I went to Orracabass. Where I Discharg^d. Some Small Part of the Cargo, from that. I proceeded In to this port, where I am a Landing—Mr. Duncan is with me—I Shall Go from this to Montego bay. from that Where Ever Mr. Duncan thinks proper to Direct,—as he has Never told me where I. Shall go from that—I have Nothing more particular to Communicate Only if this Should Come to hand before I Arrive you will please Acquaint my friends In Bermudas that I am Well and hearty

Sir I Remain Your Hum^{le}. Se^t

JOHN SMITH

Addressed: Mr. John G. Blount

Merch^t

Washington

North Carolina

To be put into Post Office at Wilmington immediately on your arrival p sloop Polly Cap^t Love

Rec^d 9 June 1787 and forwarded by SirYour ob & hu S^r

THO MURLEY

*John Cowper to John Gray Blount*PORTSMOUTH April 12th. 1787

DrSir.

your favour of the 8th. Inst. is at hand, by the first Ship for England (which will be in two Weeks) I shall remit the balance in My hand to your brother with your letter I have paid off Mess^r. Pennock Nicolson & Skipwith & Mr. Sol^o. Wilson—I am 100 £ Short of full payment for the Tar which shall receive the 15th. on an Accepted Bill and then Shall Immediately procure a Bill on London for the full amount in my hands—I am glad to hear your Brig is Safe Arrived at Washington—Pray are you not Mistaken respecting the record of Deeds or Mortgages—I

⁴⁵Captain John Smith often served the Blounts either as captain of one of their vessels or as a supercargo and occasionally as both captain and supercargo.

believe you will find that your Old Laws admitted the record of Land [2] Conveyances in the Superior Court of the District or the County Court where the land lays—and Edenton was formerly the District in which the land lay let me know if I am wrong in this Opinion—you have heard the fate of Mr. Eyre; the Prop of the House of P N & S—The Consequence is that those Gentlemens Bills have come back protested to a Considerable amount and Will no doubt (added to there Loss in the fire) embarrass them much,—this to ourselves—Most respectfully I am

Dr Sir

Your Ob^t. servant

JOHN COWPER

Dr Sir

Since writing the Inclosed I have met With a Conveyance, and have remited your T. B. One Hundred pounds Sterling I am
your Ob St

JOHN COWPER

P.S

If you go to the Convention in may at Phil^a. this will be your best rout the Packets run regular from here to [Phil^a?] and I shall be glad to see you

J.C

Addressed: John G Blount Esquire
Washington

Lalanne⁴⁶ to John Gray Blount

CHARLESTON april 13. 1787

Mr J. G Blount)

Wagshington)

Dear sir

According to my promise to let you Know on my arrival here how Corn ruled this market, I have the honnour to write this & tell you, that, that Produce is in Great plenty here and without demand, however the Current Price now is 3/ a bushell, by quantity, and it is not beleived, that it will rise for sometime,

⁴⁶The relation of Lalanne to the Blounts is not clear. He seems to have been an adventurer and to have had much difficulty in staying out of debt. See J. Lalanne to John Gray Blount, Point a Pitre, August 29, 1788, below p. 421.

unless a revolution unforeseen Which is always to be Expected in such a place as Charleston

Though I have not yet Looked over the account you render'd me, for want of time, I perceive however there is an Error on the Quantity of Planks you returned me, for those I Lent you, the quantity I took is no more than 3676 £. and you Charge me for 4580 £ the difference is 904 £. Which you will please to take notice of and bring it to my Credit

I think I will Go to Pointe Peter before I return to wagshington, Either I shall or not, you'll oblige me to Keep at my disposal the Tobacco due for balance in two months from this date, Which Time I hope to be with you

[2] I Left at M Casos, my trunk, will you be so Kind as to take it to your own house, provided it will not be any trouble for you, in Compleing with this request You may depend on the Gratitude of

Dear sir

Your most humble

servant LALANNE

I beg you to Present my best respects to Mistriss Blunt

Addressed: Mr. John Gray Blount

Merchant

Washington

north Carolina

William Blount to [John Gray Blount]

NEWYORK April 13th 1787

This comes by a Vessel bound to Edenton Capt. Ferguson who I have requested to forward it from the Barr either to New Bern or Washington—

On Thursday next if not before a Brig will [leave] this for Washington to receve there a Load of the Public Tobacco on which will come Passenger Mr. Robert Stewart impowered by the Purchaser to receve and Ship the whole of it—I shall at the Request of Mr. Constable give him Letters of introduction to you—In this Brig your Mill Stones will come.—The Purchasers as yet have not been able to take up any other Vessel but are daily on the Watch so that I suppose several will soon follow Mr. Stewart—I have been for this Week [2] confined most in doors

with my old Complaint of Cold in my face and Jaw and in Much Pain, my Throat has been much inflamed and very painful but today I am much better.

I need not tell you I have wrote this in hast. I will write you by Stewart as well as to Molsey—Ashe presents his Compliments[.] Hawkins is out or I am sure he would [do likewise]

Your's &c

W^m. BLOUNT

William White⁴⁷ to John Gray Blount

KINSTON, 15th April 1787

Sir,

I received yours of the 13th. Instant p Gen^l. Armstrong, and observe the Contents to which I shall attend: Since which I have seen Benj^a. Sheppard who will be here tomorrow at the Sale and will then relate the whole circumstances respecting the wench to the Sheriff if necessary as he has already done to me; which induces me to think that She will be given up without the least difficulty, However if there is any disputes or intricacies in the matter, you may be assured that everything I can do by the powers I am vested with shall be done. If I get her I shall send her by the first opportunity to Blount-Hall from—whence I imagine she will soon be conveyed to you.

With respect I am Sir

Your obed^t. Servant,

WILL. WHITE

John G. Blount Esqre

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqre

Washington

Hon^d p Genl. Armstrong

William White to John Gray Blount

KINSTON, 17th. April 1787

Sir,

Yesterday the wench you wrote to me respecting was brought down, but on the Sheriffs asking what Property belonged to Mr. Faircloth Subject to be sold and making further inquiry respect-

⁴⁷This was probably the nephew of Richard Caswell.

ing the said wench the Securities say'd she was not the property of Mr. Faircloth neither would they do any thing with her as they considered they had no right to her—upon which I took her into possession and having an opportunity immediately by Mr. Blackledges' Serv^t. I have Sent her to Greenville to Mr. William Blount's where she is to Stay Subject to your order

I am Sir

Your most obed^t. Serv^t.

WILL. WHITE

John G. Blount Esqr.

Addressed: John G Blount Esqr.

Washington

Favored by R Blackledge

Fulwar Skipwith to John Gray Blount

RICHMOND April 18. 1787

Dear Sir

A Letter from my Clerk in London accompanied by another from your worthy Brother received yesterdays Post, have at length developed the State of my Affairs in that Quarter With the unprecedented Imprudence & Injustices of Mr. Eyres Conduct in appropriating to his private purposes all the Funds of Pennock Nicolson & Skipwiths, which came within his reach. As far back as February he was in Confinement with that inevitable Fate of Bankruptcy staring him in the Face.—On this side the water the House of P N & S has shared a better fate in amply securing itself in the Property of Mr. Eyre—Property [2] which really Providence seems designed by to have thrown within our reach

The warm Impulse which I feel to do what is just aded to the Politeness & Liberality of my Creditors abroad have determined me again to cross the Atlantic in order to do them the justice they have the right to expect. I can scarcely entertain a hope of regaining the Credit of my House in London so as to be enable[d] to do Business on the scale I could wish & am therefore fearful that I must relinquish Comunion which I was proud in makeing with your House

I shall leave this Country Sir fully satisfied that your Ideas of Justice & Humanity will induce you to make extraordinary

[3] Exertions to pay the Claim of F S & C°. against your House into the hands of P N & S

Be so good as to let me hear from you, & to let me know at what time your Brother would sail from London

With Sentiments of Respect & friendship

I am Dear Sir

Your mo Ob Serv

FULWAR SKIPWITH

John G Blount Esqr

Addressed: John G Blount Esqr.

Merchant

Washington

Thomas Blount to John Gray & Thomas Blount

LONDON April 18th 1787.

Gentlemen,

Your Letter from Fayetteville of the 13th Decr. '86 is now before me. it came to hand on the 18th Ult°. & with it I rec^d. from Mess^{rs}. Wills & John Cowper—4 half Joes, 3 Doubloons & 12 Guineas, equal here to £28.19.2 Sterling—which was very acceptable to me as will also be when it comes, the residue of the two hundred Guineas you have promised, for the whole of it will not be a farthing more than I *really* want. William Blount, in his last Letter, informs me that on the 11th Feb^r. you acknowledged to him the receipt of my Letter of the 20th. Novem^r. & I am greatly surprised that you have not answered it—the disappointment, however, is somewhat Softened by the pleasure I feel in believing that you are satisfied with the Reasons I there stated for not coming home at the time you ordered me.—I wrote you so fully, on the 10th March p the Planter Capt. Arthurs, on the Subjects of Tob°. & Speculation that nothing now remains to be said on them.—I now [2] daily expect to hear of the arrival of the John in France & am holding myself in continual readiness to repair immediately to the port she arrives at—Your whole Debt to Fulwar Skipwith & C°. is attached in my hands, as you will see by my Letter of the 4th Inst. but I have not yet been Summon'd to declare on Oath what Property of theirs I have—& till then the validity of the attachments cannot be fairly ascertained—so that, whatever Property you had in hand at

the time of your receiving information of those attachments must come forward to me (and the sooner the better) unless it was previously attache'd in your own hands—Mr. Eyre, tho a Bankrupt in Law form, is yet a Prisoner in the Kings-Bench & in all probability will end his days there—for his Creditors are so extremely exasperated at the villainy of his conduct, that, it is said, they have unanimously determined to shew him no lenity—What payment he will be able to make I do not know, but from what I have heard, conclude it will not amount to more than about 2/ in the Pound—The House of F. Skipwith & C^o. will probably lose upwards of £12000. by him, which, it is supposed, will oblige Skipwith himself to return here; & if he [3] does, I am fearful, he will be roughly handled—& either of his partners would share the same fate. Mr. Robert Hudson, after having thus long amused us with the idea that he was willing to admit the legality of my Claim for Abednego's legacy, has at length declared that he will not pay it till he is compel'd by a Court of Equity, alledging as a reason that he has lately heard that the death of the Legate happened prior to that of the Legator—I have thereupon filed a Bill against him in Chancery, & as soon as he puts in his answer, which the Law obliges him to do in the course of nine Weeks, a Commission will issue for the examination of my Witnesses where they are now, as the recovery of this valuable Legacy depends wholly on the establishment of this one single point & that cannot be done but by the testimony of Captain George Dennison, I conceive that it is necessary, to guard against Death, to take his Affidavit before two or more Justices of the peace & a Notary—for, tho' it could not be received as laful evidence, it is possible, & I think probable too, that it would influence the opinion of the Judge & induce him to decide in our favor. [4] This is one method that I would advise but there is still a better one—one that could not possibly fail of removing every objection that has been, or can be, made on the part of the Defendant—and that is, to send Cap^t. Dennison here to be examined on Oath before one of the Masters in Chancery—which is universally acknowledged to be such Evidence as cannot be rejected by any Court whatever, whether the Deponent be either living or dead.—and since this proof would answer so valuable a purpose it would be well worth while, in my opinion, to pay his passage here & back again, & allow him Captains pay during his absence, which need not be more than five months at most. Should you adopt this mode,

direct him if he arrives in London while I am absent to make himself known to Mess^{rs}. Alexander & Benja^a. Contee Merch^{ts}. N^o. 2 in the Crescent, who will introduce him to my Attorney Mr. Brown.—His affidavit ought to be taken in the forementioned form whether he comes or not, for Death may overtake him as well on the Voyage as at home—You are now able [5] able to give M^{rs}. Hill as much information as I can: 'tis, therefore, needless to write her.—

I have been much indisposed for several Weeks & great part of the time confined to my Room; but at present I am so much recovered that I walk out as usual & consider myself perfectly out of danger. From this circumstance you may naturally suppose that my Physicians' & apothecarys' Bills will be heavy Charges in my Acco^t. of Expenditures, for my Belly is now like a well assorted apothecarys' Shop. To add to my misfortunes, that small excrescence which you must remember to have Seen on the back part of my right hand has lately been very painful, insomuch that for some days I was entirely deprived of the use of it, & even now I can't write more than half an hour at a time—

In England the markets for Tobacco are all plentifully stocked, the price low & sales very dull—in France the price is as usual from 34 to 38 Livres.—The only news we have here comes from your quarter & were it all true America must be in a worse Situation now than it was at any period of the late War—but [6] American patriots divide it, as Congress do Dollars, into ninetieths & believe only one fourth of the smallest divisible part—and I would hope that, in believing so much, we are too credulous.—

By the time you read thus far your patience must be pretty well worried—for that reason I'll quit & give my poor sick hand a holiday—With due respect to family & friends—I am,

Yours

affectionately

THO. BLOUNT

Addressed: Mess^r. John G & Tho. Blount

Washington

N^o. Carolina

p The Termagant

Capt Talbot

Constable Rucker & Company to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK 18 April 1787

Jn^o Gray Blount Esq^r
Washington

Sir

We have this Day agreed with our mutual Friend Mr. W^m. Blount in behalf of Mr. James La Case to whom We sold our Contract with the State of N^o. Carolina for a quantity of Tobacco to be received to yield Mess^r J G & T. Blount 100 Hhds of said Tobacco at the price at which it was purchas^d taking their Bills at 90d^s. for the Amount; as We are responsible to Mr La Case for this sum without any [even?] the smallest advantage it is agreed that the Bills of Lading are to be to our use, & the Insurance effected in our Name, to be given up upon the Bills being accepted We have at this time written to our Mr John Rucker [2] introducing Mr Tho^s. Blount to his Acquaintance We understand it is your intention to ship the Tobacco in question to France, We wou^d advise Bourdeaux as the best Mart having tried most of the Marketts in Europe, shu^d you consign there We wou^d recommend Mathew Rucker having had experience of his Industry & punctuality—We have by the last packet from England received Sales from Londⁿ. of a parcell of best James River [tobacco] which Cost us near 10 Gns [guineas] P Hhd and did not nett more than 7—

As Mr Stewart is a Stranger We request your Advice & Assistance to Him, He is a Young Man in whom you may safely trust, We shall be happy to render You any Service in return & am with respect

Your mo: hb: Ser^t

CONSTABLE RUCKER & CO

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r.

Washington

Fav^r Mr. R Stewart

Nicholas Romaine⁴⁸ to John Gray Blount

[NEW YORK, April 19, 1787]

Dear Sir,

I had the pleasure some time ago to acknowledge the receipt of your favour by Capt. Harris—the Last I have had come to hand—

The Brig is gone to Georgia and the west-Indias, where I am in hopes Capt. Harris will-dispose of her—

I am endeavor to charter some vessel to carry my property at Edenton to Europe—that remains in your hands I would wish to have done in the Course of this Season—Col. Blount will-return in May by whom I shall have the power to Write again—

I am

With much esteem

Your Ob^t Serv^t.

NIC ROMAYN

New York April 19. 1787

John Gray Blount Esqr.

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Washington

*Pennock Nicolson & Skipwith to John Gray Blount*RICHMOND April 21st. 1787

Mr. John G. Blount

Dear Sir

Mr. Skipwith has informed you of the Villainous Conduct of Mr Eyre who has appropriated all our property to his own use. We hope to get securd having already laid some Attachments but the delays attending such proceedings is so great that nothing can be got to help us immediately—We have during the Fall & Winter drawn some Bills which will be returning on us to take up which is nearest our Hearts for on that our Reputation depends & to Accomplish which we must beg your Assistance & we feel a Conviction that you will do all in your power[.] MrSkipwith informed us on his return from your place that you had promised fifty Hhd^s. Tob^o to be sent round immediately We

⁴⁸Dr. Nicholas Romaine of Edenton, North Carolina, and New York City was associated with the Blounts in various business transactions.

made no doubt you will do this & if in your power pray send us
a farther Qty to you we know we need say no more & relying
on your Friendship remain With much esteem

Your Ob^t Ser^{ts}

PENNOCK NICOLSON & SKIPWITH

Mr. S & M^t. N are both
out to Attach property of B. E.
Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r-
Washington
N^o Carolina

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

EDENTON 23rd April 1787

Dear Sir

Capt^a. Jos. Collins will soon have Occasion for 20 Brls Pork,
for which he proposes to pay in hard Mony. He is possessed of a
Bill of Exchange payable in Charleston at 10 days sight for £ 77
Sterling, which Mony he warrants to be paid in Specie. If you
can negotiate this Bill he would take Pork for the Amount. If
you cannot dispose of the Bill be pleased to say what is the
lowest Price for which you can obtain the Quantity mentioned
& where it is to be delivered. If you buy the Pork on Tar River
perhaps Ritchey & Co have Pork on Roanoke which they would
exchange for a like Quantity nearer Washington. Such Ex-
change would accomodate Capt^a Collins & might not be incon-
venient to the^m. Be so good as write by the Return Post what
may be done or at Least by the following Post if the Enquiries
cannot be sooner made.

I propose setting out for Philad^a on the 29th inst: but if I
should be gone before the Answer comes to Hand Capt^a Collins
will open the Letter and attend to the Contents.

I am Dr Sir Your obed^t Serv^t.

HU WILLIAMSON

P: S: If you have any Information respecting Greenville Acad-
emy be pleased to forward the same.

If M^{rs}. Stevens forwards a Letter for me be pleased to keep it
till your Brother arrives.

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Merch^t
Washington

*Richard Caswell to John Gray Blount*KINSTON 24th April 1787.

Dear Sir

By my son Winston I forward a Letter for Mr. William Blount under the Cover of which is enclosed his Com^o. as a Deputy from this State to the Convention⁴⁹

Also Hard Money to the Value of £ 128.—dollars at 12/. and a Warrant in favor of Mr. Spaight for £ 64. for which Cash was exchanged with him at the same rate, the Money & the warr^t. amo^t. to £ 192. which is equal to a Sum I drew from Capt. Daves in my own name, therefore to exonerate me from that charge and to place it to the Account of Mr. W. Blount, please send me a rece^t.—I also send a Warr^t. in favor of WB for £ 64.—the amo^t. of these two Warrants can be obtained from Mr. Read and I hope you will receive it in Time to remit to W. B. However I have no Doubt of your having any difficulties on that Acco^t. as I know you can draw Bills upon the Spot where the Convention will sit (You) [2] you will be pleased to forward the letter to WB from Washington by such Conveyance as you think proper or let Winston take it to Mr. [Richard Dobbs] Spaight at Newbern

I am very respectfully

Dear Sir, Your Most Obed^t. Serv^t.

R. CASWELL

William Willcocks to John George [Gray] & Thomas Blount

CORK [IRELAND] 28 April 1787

Mess^{rs}. John Geo: & Tho^s. Blount.

Sirs

I refer you to the Circular letter of my late Partnership advising its dissolution, am about forming another, & my Son is to be One of the House, which he justly merits, from his long experience & attention, when finally agreed on, You shall be informed, in the interim I do business under my present firm, and will be extremely thankful for the favor of your Commands, which shall be attended to with all diligence. Good Barrel Staves

⁴⁹He refers to the convention of 1787 in Philadelphia, which drew up the Constitution of the United States.

are worth £ 7 P M. a Cargo arrived to my late firm yesterday from Phil^a. for which I expect that price, the same Vessel brought in about 40 tuns of Pitch, Tar & turpentine, which will be tedious in the sale, Flaxseed 58 a 60/—p hhd. first Quality potashes 30/—pC^t.—Virg^a. Tobacco 13½ to 15^d. pC^t, Deer Skins about 15^d. in little dem^d.—[demand] & Oak Timber 60 a 70/—P Tun slow Sale. —

I am Respectfully, Gentlemen,

Your hum^l. Servant

WILL: WILLCOCKS

Coarse Linens, & Coarse Woolens are to be had here on reasonable terms, Your Mr. Tho^s. Blount was well three weeks ago.—my last respects were dated 28 Feb^v.—via Dublin—

Addressed: John George & Thos. Blount

Washington

N^o.. Carolina

John Geo: & Tho^s. Blount Esq^{rs}.

CORK, 31st March, 1787.

Sirs

We return you our best thanks for the favors conferred on the Partnership of Bryan and Willcocks, which by mutual consent was this day dissolved.

We, each of us, continue the same Line of Business we formerly were in, and will attend to the adjustment of the Partnership Accounts.

We respectfully are, Sirs

Your obedient Servants,

W^m. BRYAN

WILL WILLCOCKS.

Joseph Clay to Nicholas Romaine

SAVANNAH 28th. April 1787

Sir/

At the request of our mutual friend Mr. William Blount I have Ship'd a Hhd Deer Skins on board the Sloop Jenny—Cap^t. Cornelius Schermerhorn which in Case of his absence he desired might be delivered to you—I have paid four Dollars freight from Augusta to this Town. & half a Dollar for expences here w^{ch}. I

have desired Cap^t Schermerhorn to receive for me w^{ch}- presume
in the absence of M^r Blount you will discharge and am wth-
respect

Sir

Your most Obed^t Serv^t

JOSEPH CLAY

Doct^r Nich^o Romaine

Endorsement: Mr. Clay Letter to N Romaine
respecting a Hogshead of Skins

Addressed: Doct^r Nicholas Romaine
New York

p the Jenny Cap^t Schermerhorn

Richard Caswell to John Gray Blount

KINSTON April 30th. 1787.

Dear Sir

Mr. Stewart the Agent for the Purchasers of the Public Tobacco, will return immediately to Washington where he will get his power of Att^o. proved before the Notary Public entered in his Office & a Copy under Seal transmitted to me, I will be much Obligated to you to give him your Advise & Assistance in this business, I have some expectation of Mr. Haywood⁵⁰ & the Inspector being at Washington by his return to Whom I have given Mr. Stewart a Letter, but least [lest] Mr. Haywood should not be there so soon, I send a Duplicate of the letter to Tarboro' by Express, in the mean Time, if you can forward the business Pray do

I am very much indisposed but something better than I have been

Dr. Sir Your Obed^t. Serv^t.

R^d. CASWELL

J. G. Blount Esq^r.

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Washington

⁵⁰John Haywood, the treasurer.

Flahavan & Willcox⁵¹ to John Gray & Thomas Blount

Phil^a. May 2^d. 1787

Mess John G & T Blunt

Gentlⁿ,

We did Our selves the Pleasure of writing you the 30th Ult^o P Eldridge to which we beg your Reference,

You have now enclosed Bills Loading of 700: Busshells Salt Shipped on board. Schooner Nancy Stobo Master on Our Acc^t. & to your address which you'll please dispose of Immediately if to any Small advantage & Nett proceeds Remit us back P Schooner or next Opp^y in good Inspected Tobacco; the salt is Cadiz Salt & Cost ab^t. $\frac{1}{8}$ P Bushell on board, we could not purchase Turks Island salt. under 3/— P Bushell and were oblidge^d to Ballast the Vessell therefore prefered formed. & If You can sell it Immediately at a Small [2] proffitt which you Can be judge of by Calculating the Tobacco you Receive in paym^t. Worth 29/ or 30/. here Nett, & also Calculating only in the Nett proceeds of Salt—

You'll also please Receive enclosed Copy of Charter party. between Mess^r. Francis & John West Owners of the Schooner Nancy. Stobo Master, and us, she goes to you. purposely to bring a way the Tobacco due from Richard Blackledge Esq^r. & Mess^{rs}. Easton & Wright to us. the Owners & us have given particular Orders that she'll not Stir from there untill She is loaded,— Youll please Observe that she is to be loaded in the Hold as well as Over Deck on Our Account, that she is to lay 15 days clear of taking in or delivering with demuradge [demurrage]. [3] and were oblidge^d from the Averssion the peoples of this Town has to Chartering a Vessell to go to your place⁵² to allow £6 Your Curr^y. P day demurrage for every day she lays after said 15 days. which You'll observe Mr. Blackledge & Easton & Wright is to pay, & we have given Orders to Cap^t. Stobo to Collect said Demurrage before he leaves the spott, we wrote you on 30th Ult^o. that If there was no possibility of getting Tobacco out of their hands, and that they have sent forward. the Certificates of Final Settl^m. of which I told them you would give them a Rec^t. for, in that Case, that you may load her with 500 Barrells of good Tarr well Coopered filled & white washed on board de-

⁵¹Merchants and shippers of Philadelphia. The Blounts carried on some trade with them, but most of their Philadelphia transactions were with Stuart and Barr.

⁵²This was partly due to the difficulty of getting vessels over the bar at Ocracoke, but the local shippers did not have a good reputation for punctuality. This was to a degree due to the primitive conditions of transportation in the state at this time.

livered at 9/. P Barrell & 200 Barrells of Pitch filled up to the Staves of a good q^{ty} [quality] for 12/6 but by no means [4] to take Any Turpentine unless the 73 Barrells that Mr Blackledge Owes us, we Wrote you before, that If the[y] delivered. you or Sent forward the Final Certificates Signed Pierce & Jackson Interest un paid/ say Final Settl^m. that you Would allow them. 4/. in the pound & Tobacco at Cash prices. but give Tobacco the Preference if it is possibly to be had

We now find that Tarr will not do Over 9/ on board, Pitch 12/—only-Coopered & filled—and as we mentioned before, if there is no possibility of getting the Tobacco take the Following articles at the Following prices. In Barter for the Tobacco at 50/—PC^w. but let the preference be given to Tobacco. if it possibly Can be gott, that is Final Settl^{ts}. at 4/. in the pound good Clean Ginsang at 3/6 P pound, good Clean Tallow at 14^d to 15^d. Clean Beeswax at 2/6 even 2/9 P pound, good Racoon Skins @2/. @2/6 each & Otter Skins from 14/ to 24/ each [5] According the Quality the best Otter Skins is the large dark Cased Skins—

They may Complain of the prices of the Tobacco [but] [a]s-sures them from us that we would by farr give the preference to Tobacco, but Certainly the[y] [will] have the Tobacco in part If not in the Whole for us Ready by this day The last Tarr we took from them we lost £12:10 P^a. Curr^y [Pennsylvania currency] by it Valuing hard Dollars at 12/—each.

We hope you have ere this Collected the small ballances left in your hands & that youll be able to Send it forward In Something by Return of this Vessell—Should Cap^t. Stobo Want Money you'll give it to him and take his Rec^t. in hard Money at 12/ P Dollars & Charge same to Our Acct^t,

Mess^{rs}. Easton & Wright may think hard as well as Mr Blackledge of our exactness but the'll please Recollect that. we sold them early in December. a q^{ty} of salt. Rum, [6] Molasses & Sugar that would Come to More than half their debt. which we Were Offered Cash for, and might [have] had it Turned here long since, Still further please observe that we were unfortunate on that River that. Our T Flahavan was Odds of 30 days Waiting on them without any Other business at a Heavy expence. & that we live in a City where the greatest exactness is Observed & Where the wants of Punctuality often proves fatal. & Destructive to property, We have Some time hence, Warned them of this Vessells Comeing both by letters In Carolina & Verbally by Our T F—

Should Mess Blackledge & Easton & Wright pay you final Sett^{ts}. Gensang. Furr. Tallow Beeswax; or Pork would pay freight at £6: paper P Barrell for their debt then you Will Load the Schooner With Tarr filled Well Coopered & White Washed on [7] Our Acc^t, & Should you not be able to Raise it out of the salt & that you have not Money enough in your own hands you'll [please] draw on us for ballance bringing in Sum to Spanish Milled Dollars—

We Request youll get the 6 or 8 m^r White Oak Barrell Staves for Damage [demurrage?]. but take none that is not of the best q^{ty}. & let the pitch & Turpentine be upon Deck—We shall thank you to Keep us advised of your [pri]ces Curr^t from Time to Time. We are With Respect & Esteem

Sirs your Very H Sert,

FLAHAVEN & WILLCOX

We wrote Mess^{rs}. Easton & Wright & Rich^d Blackledge to Write you, Immediately their Intentions & to be directed by you please write us by first Opp^y your Success—even by Post Should there be Necessity of a Liter [lighter] over the Swash youll please furnish One on the Cheapest Terms

Addressed: Mess^{rs}. John G. & Thomas Blount

Merchants

Washington

N^o. Carolina

Captain Stobo

John Cowper to John Gray Blount

PORTSMOUTH May 2^d. 1787

Dr Sir

Captⁿ. Allen arrived here yesterday he will be discharge in time. Tar is in no demand here it will not Command More than 7/—I have remited your Brother in the Whole Bills to amount of 155 £ Sterling—your Bacon and Pork are Still on hand nor can I dispose of them for Cash to any advantage the Bacon would Command at Auction 6^d and the Pork 3.12 & or 75/—perhaps I shall be at Newbern the 20th. of the Month—I am

DrSir

Your Ob^t Set

JOHN COWPER

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr
 Mercht^s.
 Washington

Charles Gerrard to John Gray Blount

TARBOROUGH May 5th. 1787.

Sir

I wrote you Some time past that Mayo had Sold his pork, but imagine it did not Come to hand.—

I wish to know what entery to make respecting the Certificates you Sent, whether to give you Cr. or the washington Store; and whether I'm to Charge the Tax to Thomas Blount, or to the Concern.—there Can be no Corn purchased here for less than 30/ all money, unless it be a few Scatering bushels which we get for Goods—(I think) if you're much in want of Corn I'd better ride round in the Country, and engage for money before the price Rises.—

As the weather keeps cool, I'll not pack up the Cloths 'till a week or two hence; unless you think it best to do it Sooner.—

I am Sir

Your ob^t. Humble Servant
 CHARLES GERRARD

Addressed: J. G. Blount Esqr-
 Merch^t.
 Washington
 Hon^d. by Mr. Lynch

Richard Lake⁵³ to John Gray Blount
 Copy*

KINSTON JAMAICA 12 May 1787

John Gray Blount Esqr.
 Dr. Sir

Your favor of 4th February last was a few days ago forwarded to me by a Mr. William Duncan, on Receipt of the Power

*This letter was the one enclosed with the letter immediately following.

⁵³Richard Lake was a member of the firm, Thomas, Richard, and William Lake, Merchants, Liverpool, England.

of Attorney & the other Papers it inclosed, having previously got the former properly proved, I applied to Mr. Joel Evans, who admitted & acknowledged that £295 were in his Hands the Proceeds of the two Bonds, but refuses giving me immediately an account, or the Payment of what should appear due on that Account when properly adjusted; on which I have sued him & I have the Satisfaction to tell you, that you may rest assured of my obtaining a Judgment against him of £295 at least, if not the full amount of the two Bonds & Int. deducting his legal Charges—If there is anything particular in the Receipt he gave to Mr. Haines for the two said Bonds, you will be pleased to forward it to me by the first good Opportunity—

Copy

I am

Dr. Sir

Your most Obed^t. Hum^l. Serv^t

R: LAKE

KINSTON JAMAICA May 17th. 1787

John Gray Blount Esq^r

Dr. Sir.

You have herewith Copy of my last. I wou'd by this Oppertunity have transmitted you Vouchers of my Demand against Mess^r. Malletts & Mumford. with a power of Att^y. to recover the same for me, but being. dubious whether an english Debt can easily be enforced. payment of in *Wilmington*, I have postponed it till I—can— [2] can hear from you on the Subject—in the mean time I beg leave to trouble you with the Correspondence that has taken place, at My Demand of payment by Capt E. Hall; from w^c. [which] you will discover, with what injustice they with hold my Money:—The last Letter from Mr. Brice dated 9th. May 86 in Montego—Bay gave me some hopes that he wou'd attempt to Legally or by some other mode, establish the Demand they pretend to make against me, for a Sale I made for & rendered. to, Mess^r. Tyler & Mumford, by the Hands of one of the partners.—having not yet Attempted it, it is clear, the absurd & fallacious Idea, is only held out, as a pretext, for the unwarrantable detaining of my Money in the Hands of Malletts & Mumford.—If therefore Mr. Mallet has any honor & thinks it necessary to convince he has, he may possibly pay you £499.4.2. N. Carolina Crr^y. the Bale^{ce}, of Malletts & Mumfords Acco^t. Curr^t. signed & Settled by them the 17th. Apr. 1784. on your presenting the Inclosed Order,—as it is evident, if Mr. Brice was

not *convinced* that I had made Sale (of a Cargoe, that was by Tyler & Mumford Imported in the Brigg Adventure Capt. Seymour,) by their T & M's order. & on their Accot., & that I had paid *to their Order* the Neat proceeds thereof, & was to no other person whatever accountable,—he no doubt before this wou'd have tried to have. substantiated a Demand against me—If Mess^s. Malletts. [3] & Mumford still refuses to pay me, & you cannot encourage me to attack them in Wilmington—I think it may be possible for you or your brother, to give me such information of Malletts. & Mumfords *property*, arriving *here*, or or *bing* [*being*] *in the Hands of. Mr. Brice*, (who I understand carrys on much Business for them in Montego Bay) so that I cou'd *Legally Attach it*, it wou'd then bring forth the Question, if Mr. Brice, wou'd try it, & I shou'd be happy to have a prospect. of such a decissen—Whatever Service you can be of—to me in this Business will be acknowledged with thanks, & Beg leave to mention that the Bearer Mr. Ewing will take the Care of any Letter, you may be—Kind enough to forward me. I am with esteem—

My Dr. Sir.

Y^r. Mo: obed^t. hble Serv^t.

R^d. LAKE

KINGSTON JAMAICA May 17th. 1787.

On Demand please pay to John Gray Blount Esqr. on Order Four Hundred and Ninety Nine pounds Four Shillings & 2^d. North Carolina Currency being Ball^{ce}. of Accot. Curr^t. dated 17th. Apr. 1784. and charge the same to Gent^t. Y^r. Mo: obed^t. Hble Serv^t.

R. LAKE

To Mess. Malletts & Mumford.

Merch^t. Wilmington N^o. Carolina

James Mulrain⁵⁴ to John Gray Blount

HALIFAX 16th May 1787

Dear Sir

By the time this Comes to your hands you will have in your Town a Man by the Name of Alexander Carsson a Sadler By Trade who has Left this place in my Debt I creadited him on faith

⁵⁴No further reference to Mulrain has been found.

of his paying me this day but he took Care to Set of for your Town yesterday and [I] accidently was Informed by a Gentleman who met him 20 miles from this On his Journey he has not only Left me in this manner but Several others under the Same predicament the hat you will See on his head & my Stockings on his Legs, he had on when left this a Green [*sic*] Coat on[.] I Bet [beg] you will have him apprehended amideately as his Intentions is for Charleston or the weist Indians [West Indies] by first Opportunity and the Sooner you have this matter Accomadated the Better or its an Intier Loss to me, you will be please to write me at Mr John Stewarts as I shall be there to Send a Vessel off to Europe What I mean by Apprehending is to have a warrant Granted and have him well secured for payment provided he cannot pay you the money I am Dr Sir

Your Very Respect¹

hble Serv—

JAMES MULRAIN

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr.

Merchant

Washington

To be forwarded with all dispatch

In absence of Mr. Blount to be Opened and Complied with as Directed within by his clerk

*Thomas, Richard & William Lake⁵⁵ to John Gray
& Thomas Blount*

LIVERPOOL May 29. 1787.

Mess^{rs}. John G. & Tho^s. Blount
Gentm

From the agreeable introduction we had to your Mr. Tho^s. Blount here, and the pleasure we enjoy'd in his society during his short residence with us, we naturally form a wish to hear of his welfare; & it will at the same time give us pleasure if a line of Business (consonant with our plan which we communicated to our good friend) shou'd at any time be struck out between us —We hope he got well home among his Friends, and tell him we should have been happy had he informed us of it. It is unneces-

⁵⁵This letter is interesting as it reveals the changing attitudes towards American shippers from that described by Thomas Blount when he first went to England.

sary for us to dwell on the many advantages we enjoy in this Port both in our Imports, and Exports as our friends observations must have pointed them out to him:—& we hope the reasonableness of our Port Charges, with our other [2] local advantages may prove inducements to you to try this market with your productions, particularly Tobacco which your Mr. T. B. seem'd to think might be shipd on low terms from your Port: we annex you our present price of it and your other produce & we hope upon trial of Liverpool that you will reap the wish'd for advantage from it—Both in the Sales and in the purchase of any Goods you may order in return you may be assured of our greatest attention to your interest.

We respectfully are

Gent^t

Your most obed^t Serv^{ts}

THOS R^d. & W. C. LAKE

Addressed: J. G. & Tho Blount Esq^r.^s

Washington

North Carolina

[3]

Prices Current.

Tobacco—best James River	.....4 ^d .	..	4½ ^d PCt free of Duty
— mid ^g James River	.....3	.	3¼
— Rappahanock	.....3	.	3¼
— York	.....3½	.	4 ^d .
— <i>Low Qualities</i>			
— of each River	.....2 2/4.	3	
— Strip'd Leaf	.....3½	.	4½ ^d .
— North Carolina	.....2 2/4.	3 3/4 ^d .	—in general es- teemed inferi- or to Rappa- hanock.

Staves... Pipe— £ 18. £ 19. p.m

Hh^d.... 7. 9.

Bbl 5. 5.9.-

Hh^d. head. 10.13.—

[Skins?] in the hair 10^d. 13^d.

[Do?] 1/2 dress'd—18.20^d.

Indigo 2/6 4/6

Tar12/6 13/6 p bl

Turpentine 8/ 9/ PCur^r

Pitch 6/ 6/6

Pine Logs superficial foot [sic]	16 ^d .
db planks	8. 10 reduced to 2 inches
Oak Loggsdb.....	22 ^d . 2f 2''16

Richard Dobbs Spaight to John Gray Blount

PHILADELPHIA 30th. May 1787

Dear Sir,

I have taken the liberty to enclose to you a letter for Mr. Blackledge, which I must request you to forward to him as soon as you possibly can.

A Convention was not formed untill friday last, and then only by Seven States, at present we have Nine; Gen^l. Washington was of course unanimously elected President. the Business being only just began, it is a difficult point to say when we shall make a finish. Indeed I fear that much time will be expended in this business, much more than I expected when I came from home, and of course another supply of cash must take place to enable us to stay here. Should that Article be deemed necessary, and the Gov^r. grant warrants for a farther advance of salary would [2] would it be agreeable to you to undertake to remit mine to me?

Your Brother William has not yet come on, having been indisposed with the piles, which has prevented him, I rec^d. a letter from him yesterday informing me, that he was much better and should be here by Tuesday next. I am

Dear Sir,

Your most Ob^t. Ser^t.

RICH^d. DOBBS SPAIGHT.

John G. Blount Esqr.

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire

Washington

North Carolina

Free Rich^d. D. Spaight

Robert Burton⁵⁶ to [John Gray Blount]

PHILIDELPHIA May. 31. 1787.

Dear Sir.

The Bearer here of Mr. Joseph Totten is a Young man who is removing from New York to Settle in Granville, it is likely he may be put a Shore at Washington, if so, your Friendly directions how to get to Tarrbrough & from there to my house will be Esteemed a favour done me—Col. W^m. Blount has been a little unwell with the piles but is getting better — the Convention sitting here are so very private that there is no telling what bussiness they are on, there is no Congress at this time, nor will not be untill the Convention rises—we have no news—with Compliments to M^{rs}. Blount

I am with much Esteem

Y^r Very hble Serv^t.

RO. BURTON

William Blount to [John Gray Blount][NEW YORK] June 3^d. 1787

A few days past arrived at this place a Capt. Horton in a small Sloop from Washington which he says he has sold to you for 300 Pieces of Tar [*sic*] Timber—He has delivered me 2 Barrells of Tar, 2 ditto pitch, 2 ditto Turpentine which he says you put on board the Sloop with out any Letter or paper addressed either to myself or any body else respecting them. These six Barrells were by you I suppose intended as a Sample to the Marine of France on which a Contract for an annual supply should be founded and I have caused them to be stored with Mr. John Ramsay.

You will recollect that I before informed you that I had requested the Governor to furnish the Delegation with authenticated Certificates of the Exports of the Produce of North Carolina for the years 85 & 86.

In reply to this request the Governor informed me that it should be done but as yet no such Certificates have made their

⁵⁶Burton was one of the representatives to Congress. His election was said to have been "in line with the general action of the Assembly, favorable to the Federal party." Ashe, *History of North Carolina*, II, 81.

appearance here.—And Mr. DeLaforest says this Certificate is indispensable [2] to the insuring [successfully] to the Contract for how[ever] desirous he may be to serve individuals he must speak on the Subject in a National Sense and this he can't do unless he has authentic Documents to show the Court the very large Exports made by North Carolina of Naval Stores and the advantage it would be to France to take it by Contract *directly* from the State in which it is made and adds that the Marine of France would be more apt to give a Contract to N^o. Carolina or her Citizens than to any other State because France never has yet done anything for N^o. Carolina.—

Mr. DeLaforest appears much disposed to serve us and I am sure will do every thing in his power to place such a Contract in so advantageous a View to his Nation as to insure it if in his power—For this we are chiefly indebted to Hawkins.—Mr. Otto the Charge des Affairs of France spoke to me about this proposed Contract about two days past and said he hoped to see it take place—For my part I feel not any doubt from my certain Knowledge that the French mean and wish to push a Trade [3] with America but [a] Contract may be made for the annual delivery of a few thousand Barrells for as many as three Years at Brest at a good price—When the Samples go to France which is needless untill they are accompani'd by the afore-mentioned Certificate it is Necessary that the Terms of Proposals should at the same Time be sent to the Marine of France in which must be clearly expressed the Time and place of Delivery, the price, when & how paid and that No duties shall be paid in France neither on the Naval Stores nor the Vessels on which they are freighted and the Bottoms in which they shall be shipped say France or America [*sic*]*—there must also be sent one of the Certificates of the Governor showing who J. G. & T. B. are—the one I had I have sent to T. B. by Mr. Smith—I shall again write to the Governor respecting the Certificate of Exports.—*

I am quite recovered of my Indisposition.—Twinings Bill has received a legal protest by a Notary Public and will soon be forwarded to you by Post the cost of Protest have been 18/.

Your's W^m. BLOUNT

Horton left this today for Petersburg full freighted and with him went passengers Col. Ashe & Rob^t. Fenner

Benjamin Hawkins to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK the 5th June 1787

Dear Sir,

I had the pleasure to receive one of your favors enclosing a draught on the post-master for fifty dollars: and according to your request endeavoured to procure payment but without the least probability of success. On advising with Colonel Blount I had the bill protested which protest I now send you and will return the bill by some future post. I have paid eighteen shillings being the fees on the protest.

I shall leave this early next week for Philadelphia and thence for North Carolina after a few days stay there. Col. Burton has returned and Col^o. Ashe, both promising to be here to attend Congress in due time.

Col^o. Blount has taken out of a vessel from your port six barrels of barrel staves, supposed to be yours and destined as a sample to the marine ministry [2] of France. As I early advised this, and have been constant in my endeavours to encrease the Commerce of our Country by all the means in my power I wish that your new method of doing business without pen ink or paper had not been adopted till after this shipment had been made. A single descriptive line would have been better far than any thing we can State.

We shall not have a Congress I believe for two months: or until the rise of the convention. There are Eleven states convened in Convention. the deputies from N. Hampshire are said to be detained for want of some pecuniary aid. Rhode Island refuses to appoint any,

I have the honour to be
with sincere esteem

Dear Sir

Your most ob^d Serv

BENJAMIN HAWKINS

J. G. Blount esqr.

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire

Merchant at

Washington

North Carolina

Free

Benjamin Hawkins

William Blount to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK June 8th 1787

M^r. John Gray Blount

Sir,

Annexed herto you will find an account of sales of a Hogshead of Deerskins belonging to the State of North Carolina which has netted forty four pounds ten Shillings: There is also annexed an account of twelve peices of Linnen received from Mess^{rs}. Atkinsons the Purchasers in payment for them amounting to £ 44:2:4.—This is the fourth Hogshead of Skins that has been received here in part pay for the Goods by me sold belonging to the State of North Carolina by Bryan Ward. The Linnens I ship on Board the Vessel commanded by the Bearer here of Captain Bartlet bound to New Bern to your Address and to the Care of Captain John Daves.—I beg you will sell them or cause them to be sold on account of the State for the most obtainable in Mony or the Governors Warrants on the Treasury so as to have the Amount of sales in hand by the Siting of the next Assembly that is if the Governor does not give you any Directions respecting them and if he does you will please attend to them in preference—a desire that the Skins that are [2] received from M^r. Ward should [refund?] to the Treas[ury] as much Mony as the Goods [sold] him cost has [indu]ced me to cause the Mony arising from the [Sales] to be laid out in Goods here indeed the Skins would not have commanded more than 16^d. per lb at three Months Credit to have been paid for in Mony.—

Linnens I do not suppose will bear so high a profit as some other Articles but they will bear the highest that could be purchased for Skins at 18^d. per lb. and they are laid in as low as a Cent which is very low—I fear you will complain that I have put this Business in your hands but I beg you will excuse it and make [or cause] to be made by som[e] Sure hand the best possible sales of the Linnen—I am

Your most Ob^t. ServantW^m.. BLOUNT

[3] Sales of one Hogshead Deerskins received by the Sloop Polly Captain Scammerhorn [Schermernhorn] from Savannah on Acc^t. of the State of North Carolina by Order of W^m. Blount

To Mess ^{rs} . Atkinsons 1 Hogshead Viz		
240 Skins	826 lb	
Tare	158	
		<hr/>
	668 lb at 18 ^d	£ 50. 2.0
12 Skins much damaged 20 lb at 6 ^d. ....		.10
		<hr/>
		£ 50.12.0
Charges Viz		
Cash paid by Scammerhorn on)		
		) £ 1.16
a/c in Georgia		
paid Cap ^t . Freight	1. 8	
for a Permit	2	
Cooperage	3.6	
Weigh Master	2.0	
Commission 5 PCent	2.10.6	6. 2.0
		<hr/>
Nett Sales		£ 44.10.0
Newyork June 8th 1787		
Errors Excepted		
JOHN RAMSAY		
NEWYORKE June 8th 1787		
Copy		
Mr. John Ramsay		
Bought of J. & F. Atkinson		
4 pieces 7/8 Linnen	26. 97. ....at 2/10.	£ .13.14.10
4 Ditto	27. 98. 3/	14.14.0
[4] Ditto	28. 99. 3/2	15.13.6
		<hr/>
		£ 44. 2.4

Richard Dobbs Spaight to John Gray Blount

PHILADELPHIA 12th. June 1787.

Dear Sir,

The Deputies have thought it necessary to write to the Governor for a further advance of two months salary, which I make no doubt but he will grant. In a former letter to you I requested you, in case a further allowance should be necessary, to undertake to receive, exchange, (or otherwise as you thought best) and remit the money to me, I must now again repeat the

request, and shall consider it as a particular favor if you will under take it for me, for should I not receive any money from Carolina before I return I shall find myself in a very disagreeable situation.

In consequence of my former letter & presuming on your disposition to assist me I have in my letter to the Governor, requested him, should a farther grant be made, to give my warrants to you.

Your Brother is not yet arrived I expect him daily. I am with regard,

Yours &c.

RICH^d. D. SPAIGHT

J. G. Blount Esq^r.

Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire

Washington

No. Carolina

Free Rich^d. D. Spaight

William Pennock⁵⁷ to John Gray Blount

RICHMOND June 12th. 1787

Mr. J G Blount

Dear Sir

Yours informing that on the 4th. March Attachments were laid in T Blounts hands for the Amount your Debt due F S [Fulwar Skipwith] & C^o & that you suppos'd he would declare for the whole Amount is at hand If I may Judge from the Letters I have seen of his he certainly knows much better than to do it as he would have great right to think that as all the parties were here they would be Negotiating which was early the case for before the Attachment was even laid there you agreed to furnish 1000 bl^s Tar & 50 Hhd^s. Tob^a. at Stipulated prices & if they are not sent much inconvenience will arrise to us as the Tar in Consequence of your promis was sold immediately on Mr Skipwiths return & you making payments that way would certainly be to your Advantage I therefore hope that nothing will prevent your complying with your engagements & paying Parkers Bill & if you think yourself insecure in going farther you can remit the

⁵⁷A member of the mercantile firm, Pennock, Nicholson, and Skipwith of Richmond, Virginia.

Ballance to London please let me hear from you immediately & I think by Consulting your Lawer you will be of opinion with me that Attachments there cannot effect any Bargains here as we are the only proper people to make them—

I am for the late House of P. N. & S

Your Ob^t Servt.

W^m PENNOCK

Addressed: Mr. J G Blount

Merch^t.

Washington

N. Carolina

Charles Gerrard to John Gray Blount

TARBOROUGH June 12th. 1787

Sir

I Send by Howell five Hh^{ds}. Tobacco agreeable to Manifest inclosed.—We've Sold all the Rum we had, and are much in want of more, as we've none left to retail.—endeavor to lay yr. hands on Sugar, Coffee, Rum, and molasses; or some of them, as they are the only articles which will Command Tobacco at present.—you'll observe I've Sold the other Hh^d. of Cap^t. Keais's Rum Containing 109 Gallons a 6/ for Tob^o. a 50/.—the men which built Mr. Halls Chimneys Call'd on me with your letter, and have agree'd to do your work a 11/ Pr. thousand, but say 'twill take near 30 thousand bricks, of which we have only 11400 but they Say they're immediately going to makeing bricks for Several people in Town, and we Shall be first furnish'd and the work immediately done.—

I shall set off Tomorrow for warrenton Mr. Harvey Says he will Stay in the Store 'till I return.—I wish you'd not Settle with Howell, but Send him to me as he's some acc^t. here.—

I am Sir

Y^r Ob^t. Humble Servant

CHARLES GERRARD

N.B. the window Glass was Sent after I wrote by Robinson.—

C.G.

Addressed: J G Blount Esq^r.

Merch^t.

Washington

*Peter Mallett to John Gray Blount*WILMINGTON. July 17th. 1787

Mr. John Gray Blount

Sir

The private transactions and dealings that any concern of mine has had with Mr. Lake of Jamaica or those of Liverpoole, and the attentions they ever have paid to my letters. claims my thanks to them besides I should feel hurt if I could suppose they or any person should think our House in fault respecting this last dispute. the best of men may err. and I am sure not only from my own Opinion but from the best Judges in this place, that Mr. Lake is and ought to be liable for the Brigg Adventures Cargoe. it is not necessary now to enter into the matter. but I am to inform you. that I will do anything proper and prudent that the dispute may be closed—the business has been so long silent. and as the House of Malletts & Mumford are winding up their affairs. I sent the papers the other day back to Jamaica in expectation of a settlement but since receiving yours I have recalled them heither [hither] where they aught in Justice to be adjusted. I shall [2] upon their return hold myself in readiness to abide the desition [decision] either of a Jury by consent of parties or. arbertration—but at present I cannot consent to the acceptance of the order—

I am with Esteem

Your most Obed^t.

Servant P MALLETT

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr.

Washington

P. post

Stuart & Barr to Corvasier Benoist & C^o

[Copy]

PHILADELPHIA 18 June 1787

Gentlemen:

The Purport of this is to Introduce to your Correspondence Our much Esteemed Friends Mess^{rs}. John G & Thomas Blount, merchants of Washington In the State of North Carolina—

These Gentlemen are Largeley Consarned in Navigation and Saw mills, and may have occation to send Some Vessells to your Port

In Consequence of which, we have taken the freedom to Recommend them to your House, and we are well ashured any Business Committed to youre Care, will be Transacted [wi]th Fidelity and Dispatch, We are with Greate Respect your most Humble
 Servants

STUART & BARR

Mess^{rs} Corvasier Benoist & C^o)

Negociants Pourtaprine)

Addressed: Messrs Corvasier Benoist & Co

Negociants

Pourt a prince

William Blount to John Gray Blount

PHILADELPHIA June 21st. 1787

Hawkins & myself arrived here on the 19th, he now purposes to leave this on Thursday on board a ship for Petersburg—I am not at Liberty to say what is doing in Convention and if I was the Business is so much in Embryo that I could say nothing that would be in the least satisfactory. All the Members agree that the Convention will set at least six Weekes, and it is generally supposes 8 or 10 from this Time, hence the Necessity for Mony to be remitted to me. Since my arrival I am favoured with your's by Mr. Mackie—Your's

W^m. BLOUNT

Free

Addressed: [John] Gray Blount esquire

Washington

[W^m.. Blo]unt

James Barr to John Gray Blount

OCCACOCK BAR 26 June 87 [1787]

Dear Sir

I expect to be at sea in aboute one Houre, I have onley to acquainte you that I am well but have had Both a Teadious & disagreeable time thus farr, I wrote you from Indian Landing that

John Williamson the Brother of Dr Williamson of Edenton was the onley Person in Charlestown who Can be Recommended by Capt M^cShane, If you must trust that Bill of M^r RB [Richard Blackledge] to that

This Last Swouth [South?] west wind has Drove a Brig on Shore above the Swash on the 24th. at Night I Beleve Belonging to Edenton

Your friend M^r Taland is now in Company Going over the Barr with sundry other Vessells, there has Been no arrival yesterday or this morning Please present my Compts to M^{rs} Blount and All friends, & Write by the first oppurtunity I am with Greate Esteem

Your Humble Sert.

JAMES BARR

John G. Blount

P S I am well Rocked at this time

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr.

Merchant

Washington

William Blount to John Gray Blount

PHILADELPHIA June 28th 1787

Your favours of the 3^d. & 16th Instant I have receved the first about three days and the last this evening. The British Packet will leave Nwyork on the 5th July and by her I shall write a Letter and inclose it in the [mail?] and I shall send the Deposition [to] M^r. Ellis by M^r. Richard Penn [who] goes Passenger to Tom Blount—

I am not at Liberty to say what is done or doing in Convention but I can say things are so much in Embryo that I could give you no Satisfactory account if I was ever so much at Liberty. It is generally supposed the Convention will continue to sit for 2 Months at least.

Your's W^m. BLOUNT

Addressed: Mr. John Gray Blount

Washington

Free W^m.. Blount

William Pennock to John Gray Blount

Mr. J. G. Blount

RICHMOND July 1st. 1787

Dear Sir

Your favor of 20th. Ult^o is at hand—To me it appears plain that no Demur can be made to the payment of 1000 bl^s Tar & 50 Hhd^s. Tobacco, as they were contracted for & were to have been deliverd before the Attachment took place, therefore that far you certainly are right in paying. not receiving the Tar has been a great disappointment as it was sold & a Vessel Chartered in consequence—I wish that Bill of Col^o Parkers paid which the Tob^o. will more than do & I think I have a right to expect that far, as to the Ballance I would wish to receive it here if you are safe; our Bills being chiefly all taken up[.] the Debts we owe are generally in England. Since M Eyres Confinement we have paid nearly £10000 Cur^y—It is impossible that the Attachments in England can have much force, as your Brother could have nothing in his hands, you were the Acting person here & the one you got the Goods from is also here, therefore there can be no doubt, but what you do is binding & right. what can be said when Fulwar Skipwith & C^o. receipt is shewn & as far as the Tob^o. & Tar goes certainly there can be no Injustice in giving it—I do not by any means wish your doing any thing that will endanger yourself or Brother but I think on reflection you will agree with me in opinion. As I said before I should like best receiving the Ballance here as there is some sporting Paper of M Eyres with Skipwith /books Acceptance/ that if the Law give it in the Holders favor which all our Lawers say it does not he having no power to make Acceptances besides the Villainy of such a Transaction/ which never shall be paid. Your Brother I make no doubt has informed you of all Eyres [2] different transactions, pray when do you expect him in I want exceedingly to see him as our Accounts are not so perfect as I could wish & have been prevented Writing him on a supposition that he would have been in the April Packet—

I am with esteem

Your Ob^t Serv^tW^m Pennock

pray what is done with your Public Tobacco—

Addressed: J G Blount Esqr.

Washington

N^o Carolina

*Richard Dobbs Spaight to John Gray Blount*PHILADELPHIA 3^d. July 1787.

Dear Sir,

I have twice wrote to you on the subject of receiving for me and remitting to *me*, two months salary which the deputies have wrote to the Governor to advance to them, but have not had the pleasure of receiving any answer to them: I shall however rely upon your friendship in this instance, and depend upon the remittance being made by you. indeed if you do not undertake it I know not to Whom to apply.

The time which I expected to stay here is already elapsed, and as I did not provide for a longer stay, my cash is already expended, Judge then my situation should I receive no further supplies.

Your Brother left this yesterday morning for New-York, from whence he will return in eight or nine days. It is still uncertain when the Convention will rise. You will much oblige me by forwarding the inclosed to Jacob Johnston.⁵⁸

I am with Regard

Yours Sincerely

RICH^d. DOBBS SPAIGHT.

John G. Blount, Esqr.

*James Barr to John Gray Blount*PHILAD^a. J[uly 6]th., 1787

Dear Friend

I have the pleasure to acquaint y[ou] that I arrived here after a passage of 4 days from [your] Barr, I found Mrs. Barr and our remaining two Children in good health on the 12th. Ult^o. by a sore throat I lost my young Son—Mr. S[tuart] & Family are well, with all my other friends in general, In[close]d you have the sales of the few Articles sent by me ex[ce]pting the Box of fruit, which I cant at present sell, I had sent you a sett of Books agreeable to Col^o. Thomases di[rec]tions with 100 Quills & one Boulting Cloth with Lewis & Sons directions for puting it on y^r. Reel, they forbid its being fixed here as the

⁵⁸Jacob Johnston was the father of Amos Johnston, whose name occurs very frequently in the Blount papers. Hugh B. Johnston to Alice B. Keith, Santiago de Chile, S. A., August 11, 1948. (Hugh B. Johnston is a descendant of Jacob Johnston).

smallest touch will spoil it, and they say any person who knows the use of Tools can make the Reel, one made here will cost 65/ if you see fitt to order it I will send it.

I have only to beg of you that you will serve me with the Whites and Mr Blackledge as far as lays in your powers, as also in that unfortunate Brig. Hazard;⁵⁹ by advising how they Acct. I fear the 220 Barrels Tarr at the Barr will all run away, I shall be happy in hearing from you and Rendering you all the service in my power, we are much hurried as a Ship arrived from Scotland (two days after I came here) to us, when in my power I will attend to all our matters, we are in the utmost want of money for which Reason we beg your attention to the above named, please present my Compliments to all friends I am with esteem Yours &c

Mr John Blount

JAMES BARR FOR S & B

[2] P. S. [I have] to inform you that my partner Seems but Disati[sfied] with the purchase of the Brig and my other Disap[p]ointments, as all kind of Vessells here are a Drug [we] have offered her for sale but Cant Sell her on any price, two days after my arrival here we Purch[ased] the Chief of her Cargo of Tobacco, & the next day we Sold & Chartered the Brig to the purchaser for Ha[vr]e de grace, we have this day finished Her Lodeing[.] she took in her Lower Hold 157 Hh^s Tob^a. & Careys [carries] 80 Betwen Decks with 11m Hd Staves & 8500 Barrel Ditto in all 237 Hhs Tob^a.

P S I am much hurried

J BARR

Thomas Blount to John Gray & Thomas Blount

LONDON July 7th 1787.

Gentlemen,

Your favor of the 8th April reached me on the 27th Ult^o. and on the same day I rec^d. Letters from Mess^{rs}. Wills & John Cowper inclosing me two Bill of Exchange—one for £100 Sterling, the other for £55—drawn in their own name on John Rucker Esquire at Sixty days sight; but I have the mortification to inform you that they are both noted for non acceptance, owing to

⁵⁹This seems to have been one of Stuart and Barr's vessels which was shipwrecked in North Carolina and the cargo misappropriated. See James Barr to John Gray Blount, August 11, 1787, below, p. 333.

the absence of Mr. Rucker,⁶⁰ who, about the beginning of May last, took French leave, as the saying is, & embarked for America, leaving his Business in a very deranged state & no person to manage it—

The consequence is, I must hold them till they become due, by which time most people imagine he will have a friend here to take them up; but for my own part I am not sanguine in the expectation, therefore think it highly probable that they will return protested; which will be a great hardship on the Drawers, because it is certain that they have money in Ruckers hands—perhaps I may be able to get them off as Cash in the payment of the Bills you have drawn on me in favor of Constable & Rucker—if so they [2] shall not be returned—the disappointment to me is very great: for my Debts here amount to nearly the full Sum & tis now high time they were paid—were it not for my friend Mr. Murdock,⁶¹ a Gentleman who once before opened his purse to me in the West Indies, my situation would be truly deplorable—It is to his friendly aid that I owe my subsistence for many months past, & it is from him only that I can hope for future favors—He has generously offer'd me what money I may want to carry me to France, so that, notwithstanding my present poverty, I shall be able to proceed whenever you order me—I wrote you very fully on the Subject of Mrs. Hills Business on the 18th April—& advised you to send Capt. Dennison immediately here, which I again repeat in the strongest terms—as by that means the matter may be decided in a few months by a suit in common Law—and otherwise it must take its course in Chancery & may be pending for many years—Mrs. Hill will be entitled by the Laws of this Country, to only one half of such part of the Legacy as may remain [3] after paying her Husbands (that is the Legatees) Debts, & the costs of the suit—the other half must be equally divided among his relations next of kin—in consequence of which I, as her attorney, have been obliged to take upon myself the Office of Administrator, & as I must of course have the distribution of the property recovered, it is necessary that she should send me, as soon as convenient, an authenticated List of all the Debts he owed at the time of his Death—W. B. in a Letter of the 18th april recommended a Com-

⁶⁰Rucker was a banker in London and a member of the firm Constable and Rucker and Co., of which Robert Morris of Philadelphia was the American representative. See John Cowper to John Gray Blount, Portsmouth, July 15, 1787, below, p. 320.

⁶¹William Murdock seems to have been one of the most genuine friends Thomas Blount made in London. He gave him financial aid when he sorely needed it and continued to show his friendliness even after Thomas returned to America.

promise, but the measure is not practicable on any terms—Law is the only alternative, & common Law, being cheapest & most expeditious, is doubtless best adapted to our purpose—therefore Dennison, or some other person who was with him when Abednego Hudson was lost, must, if possible, be prevailed on to come here as a Witness, & the sooner the better—pray urge it—the expence must not be regarded & delay may be dangerous—advance her nothing till this is done, nor then but little—Should I be here when Dennison arrives, he will find me at N^o. 21. Colchester Street, Savage [4] Gardens. The House of M^{rs}. Farmer—If not, direct him to enquire at that place for M^r. John Browne, my Attorney—He lives at N^o. 20 Lothbury Street, & will give him immediate dispatch—

I am happy to hear that you expect to be punctual in your payment & hope your expectation will be fully answered—till that is done a further Credit cannot possibly be obtained—your meaning is greatly obscured by the brevity of your style in so much, that I am at a loss to know whether, by saying “you do not want more than £500 worth Goods next fall” you expected me to send them, or not—However, ’tis by no means material, for I could not do it, if you did—Credit is entirely done away—those that could trust, will not—and those that would, cannot—The disputes in Holland, between the prince & people, are now arrived at such a pitch of violence that there seems to be no method of settling then but by the sword—& the drawing of it, by either party, will probably, if not inevitably, engage most of [5] of the powers of Europe in a War—it is thought that the Prince will be supported by England & Prussia—& the people by France & Germany—but no matter how the powers are divided so they do but go to War—A war in Europe will be favorable to America, & for that reason I am anxious to see it—such an Event would probably make a good market for the John (for you know she would make an excellent privateer)—& in that case would it be wrong to sell her? I think not.—William Blount says, in his last letter, that he thinks I might be appointed Consul for the Port of Bristol, & if you think I could be serviceable to you by accepting the appointment I am willing to do so—There is a young Lady at the Hague who is desperately in Love with me & avows her passion—Her fortune is said to be about £6000. Sterling—Her character without blemish, her person handsome, her manners agreeable, her age 22—& were she a native of my own Country I could prefer her to all other women

as a wife—She was educated in England & speaks English, French, [6] Dutch & German with the greatest fluency & propriety—she is anxious to accompany me to America & willing to go with me to any part of the world—were I not fearful of incurring the displeasure of the family I would marry her—but without their unanimous approbation I will not—what think you of it?—observe I have not courted her, of course can have made no manner of engagement—I have come to the Knowledge of this by a singular instance of female condour [candor].—Cooper is now here & his wife in Ireland—& a more distressed man you never Knew—he has neither money, friends, or Credit & is 2 or £300 in Debt—I shudder at his situation & lament that I cannot assist him—what he will do, God only knows. mention not to any body that you have heard it—With Love to the family I am affectionately

Yours

THO. BLOUNT

P. S. I have recovered from my late illness & now enjoy very good health—Tob^o. of every kind, except Maryland, is very low here—

Addressed: Mess^{rs}. John G. & Tho. Blount
Washington
N^o Carolina

Via Norfolk
p Ship Bowman
Capt. Butler

Richard Caswell to John Gray Blount

NEWINGTON July 7th 1787.

Dear Sir

Agreeably to the requests of Mr. Spaight and Mr. Williamson I forward to you Warrants on the Collectors of Import for £120 each [and] I suppose [that] they have advised you in what manner their remittances are to be made; Please to forward by post the enclosed letter to the Deputies

I am Sir, Your Most Obed^t Serv^t.

R^d. CASWELL

J. G. Blount esq^r

*Robert Stewart⁶² to John Gray Blount*EDENTON 9th July 1787

Dear Sir

Ere I left Washington I had advice from M^r Granberry that he had laid an other plan for Freighting his Brig & on my arrival here I learned that all the information I had received from the Mate of the Ship at the Bar was Erroneous so that instead of a Ship & a Brig I have now none to load

Should you hear of an American Vessel & [or] two that would answer for France you would much oblige me by informing me thereof by Post[.] 270 Hh^d here & 88 in Washington would load two Brigs exclusive of what M^r. B. [Blackledge] is to deliver of which latter I see no prospect at present nevertheless as my going away without it would make the affair Public [2] which I by no means wish I have this day wrote to him

I am very respectfully

Sir,

Your Obed^t Servant

ROBERT STEWART

if there are no Vessels fit for France please to inform me if you think you could readily Ship the Tobacco to New York at three Dollars

July 10th

J. G. Blount Esq^r. Washington

*John Cowper to John Gray Blount*PORTSMOUTH July 15th. 1787John G. Blount Esq^r

Sir

Inclosed is your Accot^t. Sales and Accot^t. Current the balance in Y^r. favour £ 21.14.9¹/₄ which If agreeable to you will pay to Mess^s. P. N. Skipwith here or to your Order or if Still more agreeable Will give you Orders on your own County—

The Stopage of M^r. R. Robert Morris's Banker in London, and his sudden departure from that Metropolis, is all the News of this place, he is actually Arrived at Philadelphia. I mean M^r John Rucker, this Will alarm you as it has done me. as you Will

⁶²A procurement agent of Constable, Rucker & Co. *State Records of North Carolina*, XX, 687, 699.

find by your Accot. Current [2] that I have remited for you our own Bills of that Gentleman which I thought as safe as any in America, as they were drawn on a deposit in that Gentlemans hands by Mr. Morris for the freight of a load of Tob°. to Marlaix [Marlaix, France?]

Observe they may be paid. but I have my fears. a post or two will determine this Matter as I have Wrote Mr. Rucker At Philadelphia on the Subject.. I have seen Mr. Morris Letter to his Agent here. he says Mr Rucker has behaved Ill in leaving London, that his Bill will be taken up so fast as they make their appearance here. that he disregards the loss but feels himself hurt from loss of Credit. it appears that Money from a Variety of Capital Failures in Paris has become [3] so scarce that the first Bankers have been paying 12 £ PC^t. for Cash. this Mr. Morris Asscribes as the Cause in part for the F. G. [Farmer's General?] not Honouring his Debt. between you and me I presume he may have Strain'd this a little by over drawing from a large quantity of Tob°. on hand here and from other delays and Miscarriages of Vessells—

Our trade here is dull beyond description from the Scarcity of Medium and the Cramp layed on by foreign powers. However to secure there own Ship building and Carrying business—Tar has been in demand for 3 Weeks and is up at 8/—West India Goods low for Cash I am

Your Ob^t Ser

JOHN COWPER

say what I must Charge

you for the Blocks

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr.

Merch^t

Washington

[*William Blount to Richard Caswell*⁶³]

Copy

NEW YORK July 19th 1787.

Dear Sir,

Herewith I forward to your Address the Papers of today in one of which is contained a Letter dated at Nashville May 1st. ad-

⁶³This letter is reprinted here because, in the opinion of this editor, it has been incorrectly identified as a letter from William Blount to John Gray Blount, and the former has been

dressed to the Honorable B. H. [Benjamin Hawkins] You will readily conjuncture it was fabricated by a Person better informed that any Inhabitant of Davidson County can be[,] it only remains for me to tell you that it has been written on my Motion in the first Instance by my Frend H. W. [Hugh Williamson] It has been here much applauded as well written and it certainly is well timed. [He] is not suspected of being the Author. It has been translated into French & will be published in Paris & London.

I arrived here on the 3^d. July from Philadelphia accompanied by Mr. Hawkins the Reasons that induced us to do [so] We have given you in official Letters by Post which I suppose will be to hand before this. We have at present nine States on the floor, & I have from day to day for several days past been about to return to Philadelphia but sundry things which require the Assent of that Number of States has been so pressing and still continues so to be that I believe we shall continue here untill [2] Sunday (we are so now industrious that we set on Saturday)—I had yesterday a Letter from D [William R. Davie?] in which he says “since you left us we have progressed obliquely and retrograded directly so that we stand on the “same Spot you left us” and when I left them much Progress was not made—My Colleagues were very unanimous H. W. [Hugh Williamson] are there Head and were in Sentiment with Virginia who seemed to take the lead Madison at their Head the Randolph and Mason are also great—The general outlines were to have a National Assembly composed of three Branches the first to be elected by the People at large and to consist of about 70 Members, the second Branch of a less Number to be chosen by the respective Legislatures for a longer Duration and the third an Executive of a single man for a Still longer Time—I must confess not withstanding all I heard

taken to task for giving out secrets. His letters to John Gray Blount (June 15, 21, 28, above) do not justify the conclusion that he gave out secrets to his brother. His statement that the letter was “to the friend of the Writer at Kinston” indicates that this is a copy of a letter to Governor Richard Caswell, who lived at Kinston. The letter was not signed and bore no address. Edmund C. Burnett, ed., *Letters of Members of the Continental Congress*, VIII, 623, gave the letter the caption “William Blount to John Gray Blount” and laid William’s failure to sign the letter to his consciousness “that he violated the injunction of secrecy.” It was customary for William Blount to make a rough draft of any letter he thought important (numerous examples of such letters may be found in the John Gray Blount Papers). The governor himself had been chosen to go to the convention but declined and named William Blount to go in his place.

in favour of this System I am not in sentiment with my Colleagues for as I have before said I still think we shall ultimately and not many Years first be separated and distinct / Governments perfectly independent of each other. The little States were much opposed to the Politicks of the larger[.] they insisted that each State ought to have an equal Vote as in the present Confederation— [3] Congress yesterday recved a Letter from Mr. Brandt written in the Indian Language informing that all the Nations of Indians of the North West of the Ohio had formed a Confederacy offensive & Defensive, it was couched in hostile Language and contained a request in the Terms of a Demand that Our Surveyors should desist from survey[ing] the Lands west of the Ohio—daily Accounts from Kentucky prove the Indians are hostile on that quarter and by the Report of the Superintendent from the Cerecks [Creeks] there is much Reason to fear Hostilities will shortly commence between them and the Citizens of Georgia—There has been at Philadelphia a Mr. Drungold [sic] with a Cherokee & John Woods with a Chickasaw & Choctaw and have all returned[,] the two latter by Way of Fort Pitt, the former complained loudly against the Infractions of the Treaty at Hopewell in as much as that the Whites had settled with in a few Miles of their Towns and within that part assigned them by the State of N. C^a. I could wish the Whites had for born there [their] Settlements on that part—the other two complained that Trade had not been Sent among them as they were taught to expect and that they were suffering for the Want of the promised Supplies [. In] Short we have [4] three Reports from the Secretary at War on Indian Affairs, one in particular which is the Subject of this day recommends the stationing the Continental Troops on the Ohio in different parts as low as the Rapids and the calling out Militia on continental pay to protect the Kentuckey and other Inhabitants on the east side of the Ohio—

The foregoing [is] a copy or rather the rough original of a piece of writing this day forwarded by Water via New Bern to the friend of the Writer at Kinston

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

PHILADELPHIA 19th July 1787

Dear Sir

The several members of Convention from our State, some Weeks ago wrote to the Governor that their Continuance here would certainly be longer than had at first been expected. For this Reason they submitted to his Excellencies Consideration the granting them a farther allowance of 2 Months in Draughts on the Treasury. By a separate Letter to the Governor, I requested him, if he should issue a Certificate in my favour, to forward it to your Care. If you have received any such Draught I wish you to try to get mony on the same & to vest it in some thing for my Account. Though I wish that some thing may be bought I do not at this Instant know any [2] any thing that can be purchased at a moderate Loss. I know that Tobacco is not to be had nor are Corn or Pork. Naval Stores are too subject to waste, else Tar might do some thing. The Value of Pitch and Tar must ever go Hand in Hand; If Pitch is to be had I think it would be preferable to any other Article of Produce it is now worth in this place. You doubtless know the Inclination of some People to make Mony by selling soft or tarey Pitch or by scooping up a good deal of Sand or Clay along with the Pitch; but if Pitch is to be had from People of reputation for a moderate Share of Honesty I would greatly prefer it to any other Article that is like to be had. [3] If the Governor has not sent you the Certificates I wish you would be so good as write him a Line. If the Mony is not to be had at Washington or Tarborough perhaps it may be had at Edenton.

Col: Davie alledges that it will be necessary for him to return Home on or about the Beginning of next Month—He must attend the Circuits of the Superior Courts. Col: Martin proposes returning with him, for he says that he will be out of Cash. Perhaps you may wonder at my saying that I would rather lose the assistance of the last than the first of those Gentlemen, but things of this Sort will often happen [4] happen. When your brother came here some Time ago from N York he suspected that where there were 4 there might be a 5th Person required to prevent a divided Vote but was soon convinced that he might return to N York & Serve the State there, whose Service had been deserted by all its Delegates in Congress except Hawkins. There

has not in a single important Question been a Division in our Representation nor so much as one dissenting Voice.

I am

Dr Sir

Your Obed^t Serv^t.

HU WILLIAMSON

Jn^o Blount Esq^r.

Henry Peterson to Thomas Blount

WAKEFIELD IN YORKSHIRE 26 July 1786 [1787]

Mr. Thomas Blount

in London

Sir

I this day received from Mr. Isaac Ferrieres who daily attends at Wills' Coffee House Cornhill London your favour to him of the 21st. Inst: containing one from my old intimate worthy Friend Dr. Hugo Williamson of Edenton dated the 7th. of January last year 86. in which he recommends you to me & desires me to introduce you to the acquaintance of Mr. *George Oxley & Andrew Peterson* Merchants of this Town & very considerable Dealers in all Sorts of Yorkshire woolen Manufactures. the last mention'd Partner Andrew P—. is my eldest Son, whom I Settled here previous to my retreating from Utrecht in the Dutch Republick on account of the Dissentions of that distracted Country I have lived here 19. months very agreeably & have the Satisfaction to See my Son's Trade flourish beyond expectation: if you come this way I shall be glad to act up to Dr. Williamson's recommendations & if a Commercial Connection Suits your inclination in YorkShire, You may command the Services of the above mentioned house to whom you will please to propose your own plan in favouring me with an answer to this letter:

You ask Mr. Ferrieres who the Correspondent is of Dr. Williamson to which I answer that Mr. James Bogle French Merch^t. 31. Swithin Lane & Mr. Dennis Deberds Merch^t. 20. Broad Street Buildings; were his Correspondents N^o. [November?] 1776. in money matters; then he was also connected with an Alderman Lee & many great Politicians Sticklers for the Separation of America from the parent Isles if I understood your question more explicitly I cou'd probably give you a more Satisfactory answer.

Pray can you inform me where [of the whereabouts of] Dr. Williamson's brother a Clergyman who came thro France to Utrecht about 9 or 10 years ago & thence to England where he got a Church but [2] but I dont know where?

Expecting your kind answer & wishing to have an opportunity of Shewing you Civilities, I am with all due respect

Sir

Your most obed^t. Servant

H PETERSON

My direction is

Henry Peterson

Wakefield

YorkShire

Addressed: To Mr. Thomas Blount

Nº. 21 Colchester Street, Savage Gardens

Or at the Virginia Coffee House

London

Thomas Blount to John Gray & Thomas Blount

LONDON July 28th 1787

Gentlemen,

Since writing you on the 7th Inst. I have rec^d. your favor of the 28th May & in obedience to your command shall set out for L'Orient at 6 °Clock this Evening & hope to arrive there in eight days—The thousand Dollars that are to come via Jamaica I have not yet heard of & the Bills remitted me by Mess^r.s W. & J. Cowpers are not yet accepted but I am now sanguine in my expectation that they will be paid at maturity—I shall leave them in the hands of my friend Mr. Murdock who has furnished me with Money to proceed on my Journey—I expect to receive by your Vessel an attested Copy of Skipwiths receipts for the payments you have made him in Virginia without which it will be impossible for me to make a final settlement of the Acco^{ts}. Mr. Ellis' [2] Certificate & oath will answer no manner of purpose—Should Dennison be lost our hopes are blasted unless you find some other person who was with him on the voyage & can send him forward to be personally present as a Witness in a Suit of common Law—I have already wrote you so pressingly on that Subject that it is unnecessary to say more on it now. in order to

make a complete Close of your Business here without loss it will be indispensibly necessary for me to return & I have made my arrangements accordingly so that you can scarcely expect me to leave Europe till next Spring—I will write you from France by the first conveyance—with Love & Comp^{ts}. where due—I am in perfect health

Yours as usual

THO. BLOUNT

Addressed: Messrs. John G. & Tho. Blount

Washington

N^o Carolina

Care of Messrs. W & J Cowper

Mercht^s

Portsmouth, Va.

William Blount to [Thomas Blount]

Copy*

NEW YORK July 30th 1787

Copy

Sir,

As when you were last here you discovered an Inclination to make a Purchase of a large Body of Land from the United States on the North West of the River Ohio, I presume it will not be unacceptable to you to be informed that the Door is now open to such a Speculation that is Congress have within these few days sold to Samuel H. Parsons late a Major General in the Service of the United States and Associates in Number about nine hundred many of whom have also been Officers and Soldiers, five Millions of acres of Land situate between the Muskingum and the Scioto at two thirds of a dollar per Acre. Thus the Precedent is established [2] of selling the back Lands in large quantities so that should you still wish to purchase and will come forward with Proposals I have no doubt but they will be equally attended to. These Purchasers mean to settle their Lands without delay a Circumstance highly pleasing to all Holders of Western Lands and beside this certain Prospect of Population, the Emigration to the Lands on the Western Waters is very great, as you will see by the following Account which you may depend on; being

*This was either a copy or an unmailed letter.

an Official Return to Congress made by Lieut. Colonel Josia Harmer, : "An Account of the Passengers down the River Ohio taken at Fort Harmer at the Mouth of the Muskingum from October 10th 1786 to May 12th 1787 namely 177 Boats containing 2689 Souls, 1333 Horses, 766 Cattle, 102 Waggon and one Phaeton beside a Number which passed in the night unobserved," of these a great part have settled in the Western [3] Part of North Carolina in Davidson County on the Rivers Tennessee and Cumberland. By a late Conveyance I forwarded to you a second L[etter] from my Davidson Friend⁶⁴ dated at Nashville May 1st. 1787 addressed to the Hon'ble Benjamin Hawkins esquire on the Subject of the Navigation of the Mississippi shewing the undoubted Right of the United States Thereto; which I hope you will have received before this reaches you. It has been here published and is much approved of—I am Your's &c

W^m. BLOUNT

Mr. T. B. in London in his Absence Benj^m. & Abr^m. Contee London by Packet

[4] P. S.

The Writer of this Letter conceives if it should be published in the english News Papers He means several, that it will be beneficial to himself and associates holding Lands in Davidson County, therefore begs the favour of those to whom it is addressed to cause it to be accordingly published by Way of Extract of a Letter from a Gentleman in Newyork to his Frind in London concealing the name of the Writer and that of the Person to whom it is addressed.—

NEWYORK July 31st 1787

W. B. informs JGB. that the forgoing is a Copy of a Letter this day forwarded. J. G. B. will readily see the Object of it. What is said of the sale to Parsons and the Return made by Harmer is perfectly true, The 2/3 of a dollar to be paid in Certificates.

John Begg to John Gray Blount

St. BARTHOLOMEW GUSTAVIA

August 1st. 1787

Dear Sir

Received your very agreeable favor of the 3^d. June last by the Bearer here of Capt. Webster. Observed the Contents with a

⁶⁴Hugh Williamson. See [William Blount to Richard Caswell], New York, July 19, 1787, above, p. 321.

great deal Satisfaction, it has my Approbation so much, that am convinced had I been there myself, [I] Should not [have] been able to Effect the Security of the Debt so much to my Wish as you have done. Should be extremely happy to have it in my power to render you any Service as some acknowledgement for your Attention & great friendship in getting this Matter Settled, which as you observe, I had but small hopes of. There is an English Act of Parliament that prohibits the Importation of all Sorts of American Produce except in British Vessels directly from the Continent, Webster arriv'd just at the time that all the English ports were Shut and consequently to a bad Market, however the Act it seems is a provisional one and the English Governor's can as they find it necessary allow the Importation of American produce from these Islands in their own Vessels as usual,⁶⁵ which they have done till the 1st. of October next, So that the Americans in that time, may some time come to a good Market, and am afraid may as often come to a bad one. Am with great Respect

Your much obliged hum
ble Servant
JOHN BEGG

John Blount Esq^{re}.

Addressed: John Blount Esq^{re}.

Washington

N^o. Carolina

Per favor of Captⁿ. Webster

James White⁶⁶ to John Gray Blount

Fayetteville Aug^t. 4th. 1787

Dr Sir,

I did myself the pleasure of writing to you on my return from the indian nation; but possibly you have not received the line I sent. I took the liberty to trouble you with a request that you would inform me, if the tobacco arrived, which I understood

⁶⁵For comment on this condition see Keith, "Relaxations in the British Restrictions on the American Trade."

⁶⁶Delegate to Congress from North Carolina. White was a friend of the Blounts and was apparently interested in western lands. He later sought to secure Spain's coöperation in the colonization of the Muscle Shoals area by curbing the aggression of the Indians. See Arthur Preston Whitaker, *The Spanish American Frontier, 1783-1795* (New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1927), 108-111; 114-115.

from you, you intended to Send round to Philadelphia, on acct. of the *warrant* you had in my favour, last fall.

I have had no accounts on the Subject from Flahavan & Willcox; which raises a degree of embarrassment to me, as I shall have to regulate my self according to what has been done in this respect; having depended on that remittance for payment of of money I borrowed in the above-mentioned city, & having given those merchants assurance they might expect that produce in the course of last Autumn.

If they had rec^d. it, I should imagine they would have given me advice; but I have not had a syllable. I shall therefore esteem myself further obliged to you, if you will please to let me know what you have done in this business.

Permit me to consult you on an other affair—My friend, Mr. W^m. Blount, I understand, will, ere [2] long, be on his return home. I owe him some money, for which I have been very uneasy. Do you not think, the medium of the State with allowance for depreciation, will answer his purposes? You know the difficulty of metamorphosing the paper into Silver—For me, early enough for my necessities, it is impossible. Whereas it may suit Mr. Blount, *here*, with allowance, as above. I think indeed it is resuming value, where I am; but I can't wait.

Do you understand by what time the gentleman I have just mentioned, is to return? Is there any thing from the convention? They are a body of the highest respectability! Their business of the first magnitude! But alas! if the issue should prove the "mountains in labour"—!

I will not trouble you with any of my proceedings with the creek indians—They would afford you little amusement—I found those savages pretty much under the influence of their chief M^c. Gillivray—He is a commercial man, &, I think, would find it his interest to be in friendship with us, had he any other neighbours. They [the Spanish?] are, *in his opinion*, possessed of too much stupid arrogance, & ignorance of their [3] own situation, & his, to be long sufferable. I fear the D--l must be raised Sooner, or later, between them: tho', I flatter myself, I helped to lay him, for a while. I have heard, since my return, that there has been a reiteration of disturbance—Over the mountains, [the Tennessee area], too, it seems, that people are putting themselves in motion. By letters from there, it appears the extirpation of the chickamawgoes is decreed. There is an expedition on foot that will probably effect it. But, I beg pardon for troubling

you with so long a letter; I will only add a wish for you health,
& assure you how much I am

yr. humb. & obliged Serv^t.

JAMES WHITE

Mr. John G. Blount

William Blount to John Gray Blount

PHILADELPHIA August 9th 87

I arrived here on the 7th from Newyork B. H. [Benjamin Hawkins] with me on his way to Carolina by Water to Washington in Kerbey's Sloop—On my way I called at Morris's [Robert Morris] Work at Trenton where it appears to me that Nail Rod enough is or might be Slit to supply all Christendom with Nails, I also looked at his Nail factory and of all Works that I have seen I have seen none more easily done nor none so proper for the employment of Negroes because they may always be kept at the same spot and at the same Work and there's no rainy days & they may be [tasked] and I conceive one Week is quite long enough for any person black or white to learn to make a good Nail: to be sure he will not by this Time learn to make many in a day but he will improve every day untill he does become prfect—Since I have been here I have been making some Inquiry about this Nail Making Business and I find Nail Rod will cost of Haselhurst who has the disposing of that made at Morris's Works £ 33. per Ton that is for 2240 lb Pennsylvania Currency—Stewart and Barr yesterday [2] agreed with a Nailer for three Casks of 10^d. [Penny] 3 d^o. 20^d. & 3 ditto 30^d. Nails at the average price of 9^d. per lb Penn^a. Money to be paid down on the delivery of the Nails—These Nails are for Carolina but for whom I dont Know. they say that a Nailer will make every day that is one day with another 12lb 10^d. 16 lb 20^d and 18 to [of] 30^d. Nails—those of a less size they do not know how many is a days Task but I shall inquire—From other Inquiries which I have made I believe more more can be done in such large Nails than is mentioned by them but for the present I wish you would callulate [calculate] on the above price of Iron and Nails and the average quantity a a Hand can make of these large Nails per day which 15 1/3 lb and see if it will not be very advantageous

Work to emply your Man Pollypus and my man Will and such other ingenious young Negroes as we can at it—I think it will give to each Hand at least 6/ ready Mony per day—you are to observe that four Hands can work at each forge at least two, the Bellows is very small with two handles one on each side and [3] the Nailers blow for themselves, each Anvil is very small not above 25 lb weight. these two articles with the addition of a small Hammer and a Key to head the Nails are all the Tools necessary in this Business—I have told you a Week is sufficient to learn a Negroe to make Nails & thus it has appeared to me and I am told by a Number of well informed people from the State of Massachusetts where they punish small offences against the Public by exacting from the Offenders Labour, that the Labour those Offenders generally are employed in is that of making Nails and that they generally make good Nails in a Week and from that to a Month altho' they might never have had a Hammar in hand before—A Nailer I suppose might easily be had here if wanted by the year but at what price I can form no Opinion—I think this Business would be better for my boys to learn than the Trade of a Copper as you Know I some Time past mentioned—And if a Nailer was employed some white Apprentices I should suppose as many as we would take might be got bound to it for seven years or more as their age might chance to be by the Court—[4] You will observe the Seting this Business in motion will cost very little, the Tools I have mentioned, the Iron will cost you but very little more than it does here 1, 2 or 3 Tons will do to begin with and if you should determine to go largely into the Business a Credit say of 3. Months may be obtaned on all the Nail Rod we shall want.—Think of this Business and let me know the Result⁶⁷—You may count on calling will from Hendricks when you please and two of my other Boys Sam & Watt or Sam and Will—And if the Business should prove beneficial and as Nails will be ready Mony [many] other Boys could be bought about 15 or 16 Years of age at from 40 to £50

I can think of Nothing else to add on this Subject at this Time—

Your's &c

W^m. BLOUNT

to

J. G. Blount

⁶⁷This is an example of William Blount's alertness towards any enterprise which might be carried out by the Blounts. They did establish a nailery and many references to this business will occur in the letters following this date in this volume.

Hawkins says there is a man in Warren—of the Name of John Watson who lives within five Miles of his father, bred a Nailer by Trade, distinguished for his Honesty and Industry,—

James Barr for Stuart & Barr to John Gray Blount

PHILADELPHIA 11th Agust 1787

Mr John Blount

Dear Sir

We wrote you by Capt Horton & Sent you a power of Attorney Against Oram on account of that unfortunate Brig Hazard, with pleasure we heare that Capt Horton is safe arrived there although you have not wrote us by the Red Bank Capt Dolby who is arrived here, from a Letter we have Rec^d from Mr William Good we feare that we shall be Greatly Ingured in that Transaction as he Reports he had Sold the Vessl and Saved the Cargo which we also feare he may make way with, & Some Reports say he has done it, or Let it go into a Certain Persons hands either of which will prove troublesome, Oure J Barr Begs of you for old acquaintance Sake that you will use your utmost Interest in Rescuing our property from the present hands & in procureing us some Sattisfaction for the Inguris we have sustained from this man please to Note that there was 220 Bbls Tar Landed on Wallaces Bank, Save all you Can from this Wreck and acquaint us how Bad the matter is We hope a Court of admiralty will Settle the matter Soon and Give some kind of Justice to us for the Damages we have Sustained—Mr John Williamson of Charles Town is here at Present, I have Spoke to him Respecting the Bill R B Got from Lealand on Charles Town which is to Replace the money which Mr Stokes was to Pay Mess^{rs} Whites, for Oure a/c.

To him you will Send the Bill and urge Whites to pay of[f] as we are Truley distresed for money

your Brother W^m is here and in Good health, and acquaints that he has wrote them on the Subject [2]

This fall we Shall have occation for a Quantity of Honey & will Give 4 per Gallon for all we can Get If Convenient for you take all you Can at that price[.] Tar pitch & Turpentine are none in more Demand than formerly & will Give the undermentioned prices at present as there is but Little at market,—a few

Days ago a Person Stopped me in the Street who Informed me that he was one of your Sailors in the Brig Polley from Jamaco [Jamaica] to Hallifax & that her Cargo Consisted of 56 Hds Rum & 500 Bushls Salt & went directly from Jamaco to that place where he had Quit the Brig & was endeavouring to find his way Back to Washington, he also Inform^d that he was Charged with a Letter from Mr Dunkin for you, I hope my feares in this matter may not be Realised, Please present JB's Respects to M^{rs} Blount & Belive us to be with Sincare Regard

Your Humble Sevts

STUART & BARR

Tar 10/ to 11

Pitch 13/

Turpentine 12/6

Pork 96/ Tobacco 32/6 to 33/6

Wax 2/2 — —

P S please to Ship 64 Bbls Tar in the name of J Worden Parker & C^o. by order of J Barr—Turpentine or pitch to the Vallue of £34 your Currancy which is the Ballance due them on their wines—If all the Hats were put up, when I came away from your place, the seamen has Stole 3 from me as there is that Number Wanting yours

J BARR

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire

Merchant

Washington

per Cap^t Kirby

[*William Blount*] to John Gray Blount

PHILADELPHIA August 11th 1787

I yesterday wrote and forwarded by post to you a letter on the Subject of making Nails and the Advantages of employing Negroes at that Business but this will probably reach you sooner than that by post and as I have got some futher Information I will now [re]peat in part and add what I have since acquired. Nail Rod is to be had *any quantity* of Mr. Haselhurst who has the Selling of all that is slit at Morris's Works near Trenton at £33. per Ton that is for 2240 lb put up generally in what the Workmen called Faggots of 56 lb each.—Stewart & Barr a few

days past purchased of a Nailer here 3 Casks of 10^d. 3 d^o. 20^d and 3 of 30^d. Nails at the averge price of 9^d. per lb. They say that the Task of a Journey man is per day 12 lb 10^d. 16 lb of 20^d. & 18 lb of 30^d. hence the averge is 15 1/3 lb per day.—Gentlemen from Massachusetts of the first Information [say that Offenders] against the Public who are to be punished with Labour are generally chained and sat to making Nails whether they ever had a Hammar in hand before or not and that they generally will make good Nails some in a Week and others in a Month [2] I saw Morris Nail Factory at his Work at Trenton and I readily beleived what had been said by the Gentlemen from Massachusetts and Yesterday I went to see a Nail Factory in this City in which there were four boys at Work, the younger of which was about 12 years of Age, he was making 4^d. Nails[,] he made them fast and well[,] he had been at it about six Months, another about 14 Years of Age who had been at it seven Months was making 10^d. Nails a Sample of which is inclosed[,] his Task was 10 lb per day but often made 14lb and the Owner paid him for the Surplusage 4lb the other two were equally as good—The Master Nailer at this Work told me that 12lb 10^d was the Task of a Journeyman but that a good Hand could easily make 20lb. and more or less in proportion of other Nails as they were greater or less. he adds that every faggot that is every 56 lb will make 48 lb of Nails. but if the Workman is good it will make 50 lb of Nails [he said that New Castle] Coal is the best but that Virginia Coal is nearly as good and that which is generally used here: Charr Coal that is your Wood Coal is not so good he says one of Virginia Coal is equal to five Charr Coal. At every fire four Nailers Work[,] each Bellows (3) has two Handles one on each Side and each Nailer blows occasionally, the Bellows are very small compared to such as our Smith's use, each Nailer has a block and anvil to himself, the anvil is very small the face not much bigger than that of our Wedges used in Mallng Rails, the only additional Tools are a small Hammar, [and a key to head the nails?] in and a [?] fixed in a block on which the Nail Rod is cut.—

It has appeared to me that this Business of Nail making is a Business better calculated than any others for the Employment of Negroes and that it is among the most profitable of Businesses, your man Pollypus and my man Will I suppose would readily make as good Nails as any body and I have four boys the greater part of which you Know I talked of making Coopers

who I suppose would as readily learn as the White boys I have seen here and if you should think it profitable to go largely into it I should suppose many white boys might be had prenticed [to us?] for seven years or more as their age might happen to be when bound by the Court—If Nails should be made more than would vend in Carolina they are an Article that would bear an Exportation from thence as well as from here—

Addressed: John Gray Blount esquire

[No conclusion]

John Sitgreaves to [John Gray Blount]

NEW BERN 12th August 1787

Dear Sir

Yours by Capt. Wallace came to hand safe together with its inclosures—I will inform you relative to the several Matters it contains in the order you have mentioned them. 1st. Inclosed is a writ against the administrator of Oliver Tutons Estate, together with a receipt for the papers—as you requested, you do not I presume expect that the sum stated in Mr. Pringles Account can be recovered upon his own deposition & without farther proof, Tutons Acknowledgement on the Bill of parcels may answer to recover so much, but that is not above one half of the sum charged by Mr. Pringle—

2^d. With Respect to Stuart & Barrs affair against the Brig Hazard—I have delivered Mr. Good the Letter from you together with the Power of Attorney & M. Fishers vague Opinion—he wishes that you wou'd undertake to push the Business & complains (very properly/tho' for the first Time) of his want of Capacity)—. I have not seen Abe Leech lately but Silas Cooke the Register of the Court told me that the Col^o. had Shut up his Court & determined to do no more Business in it—. I have no doubt he might be prevailed on to open it once more at least I shou'd Suppose so—. I must confess I feel a reluctance to embark in this transaction myself from a fear principally of not being successful, the people here generally are so uninformed in Mercantile affairs, & many of them having already given a contrary Opinion, that I think little success ought to be expected, unless a good Jury were collected—. however if you wish [2] it or you think Stuart & Barrs Interest will be as well or better served by it, I will proceed in the matter—

3^d. The Account against Abel James & Sons I have presented Mr Hains, an exact Copy of which together with a Receipt in the form you directed for the Ballance he has signed & is herewith forwarded you—together with a Letter from him relative to it—. he has signed the receipt & Account particularly at my Instance as he wou'd not conclude to settle it in the other Mode you proposed—but has told me that when he sees you which he intends in the course of a fortnight, he probably will settle the Account leaving out the Jamaica Bonds & Cancel the present Receipt & give another for the whole am^o. of the Account as it will then Stand—.

When the Subject of Elections came on the Carpet which was about the time of my Return from Greenville—I found that Objections had been raised against the old Members generally (except Coor) for being attached to the Blount Interest (as it is termed); among a certain set, it was concluded on that [Abner] Neale was wholly devoted, that I was little less so and [Richard Dobbs] Spaight No better, I did not wonder so much at this Charge against Neale & me because he was related to you by Marriage & my friendship with the whole family was no Secret, but I really wondered that they shou'd lug in Spaight who I thought of all men was the least [most?] unbiassed by personal friendships & I fancy nothing cou'd vex him more than such a Report. with the rational few I argued on the absurdity of such an Idea & convinced them it was a political [3] lie calculated to serve the immediate purpose of the Opposition—Billy Good tho' in habits of Intimacy with me greater than he has ever been before, I believe was one of the most respectable Sensible Men that advised the Doctor⁶⁸ to offer for the Town[.] I never cou'd find out whether his opposition arose from the same principle as pretended by some others, but I know he has been crying ever since the last Assembly about the Law I had passed for the regulation of New Bern, in that a power is given to the Commissioners to fine as high as £10. but a right reserved to the Defendant to appeal to the next County Court, if they think themselves aggrieved he has poor man been very much aggrieved about this right of appeal, & has been mean & foolish enough I am told to say that I did it in order to encrease Business for myself as a Lawyer, & that the people have no right to appeal from the infallible Judgment of Town Commrs of which he is always one. This I believe has been the Crime,

⁶⁸Dr. William McClure.

(together with that of being a Lawyer) for which I ought in his Opinion to be turned out—. While I am upon this insignificant tho troublesome Character let me tell you of a few more of his opinions & Judicial Acts—.

He swears it was never intended that a Tenant shou'd have a right to replevy his Goods when distrained for rent & that there is neither Law or Justice to Support an officer in granting a Replevin—. That Landlords are by the Laws of England so favoured that they Shall not be obliged to wait one Moment for their Money—

In issuing attachments he has taken the Bonds payable to the Governor & his sussesors [successors] in Office & when the Sheriff asked him why he did so & endeavoured to convince him he was wrong, he continued fixed in his Opinion & observed that all Bonds were taken payable to the Governor—

A Whore the other day warranted a Man for 40/. which She said he had promised her for a nights Lodging, which Billy admitted her to swear that this was her Customary & usual Charge & gave Judgment against the Defendant for 40/—but this I think was a generous Judgment if not a just one—.

[4] in Short his public Conduct as a Justice & politician is replete with Circumstances of the grossest absurdity, despotism and folly—& will certainly reflect dishonour on the Man who was so partial as to nominate him to the Office of a Justice.

With respect to our Elections—I am much at a loss to conjecture who will be the Members for the County I never knew such diversity of Sentiment in each Neighbourhood before, so much pains has been taken by the friends of Nixon & Allen that I sometimes think one or both of them will succeed—& no Species of lying has been omitted to carry their point, on Brices Creek they have it that Spaight is about to be married to the Daughter of a New Light preacher, & they suspect he will be converted to that religion & hereafter distrust them in their Sentiments which are very opposite to that sect—another reason that he is always from home, & cannot so well be acquainted with their Interests & Business, that he is always going about to Phil^a. and New York &c &c.

for my own part I believe I shall be Elected & I assure you with sincerity that I am already very sorry that I offered—but since I have I will endeavour to give the Doctors Ambition a Dose, I find that Mankind are fickle ungrateful & ungenerous, I mean the greater part of them, that is, the Mobility, and I

find that it ill suits with my cramped situation in life—which requires a more diligent Attention to my Business—. the only dependance I have for the support of Myself & a large family—. therefore it will be most proper I shou'd hereafter decline it (as I shall certainly do & leave to others the Care of the Nation).

Inclosed is a letter from Bermuda, which I told you respected the property there, you will be as well able to Judge of its veracity as myself—When I tell you that I have not yet drawn the Writings between him & myself, you will see the propriety of keeping it a profound Secret—.

The Writ vs. Hollingsworth you will please give to the Sheriff of Beaufort.— Dave considers that the Money in his office is so appropriated by Law that he cannot attempt to take up Warrants of any kind—Shou'd he receive any Monies that was due before the passing of the Act he will then be at Liberty & will do it—Adieu—Yours

JN°. SITGREAVES

Abner Neal⁶⁹ to John Gray Blount

Aug^t. 15th. 1787. POOR PROSPECT.

Sir,

I yesterday went up Trent to get from Ned Young the Deed from Chapman to the Ogdens, to have one passd from Titus Ogden to Shute. agreeable to your directions, but unfortunate for you Young is gone to Cape Fear, & it is impossible to have this business done untill he returns. I have not as yet rec^d. all the Money from Himley for the Plank, neither have I rec^d. any from Coor. Mr. Blackledge promised to pay on sight to you £20. for Coor. the balance, Coor says I shall have some time this Month. I have. [2] sent you Twenty pounds on Acct. of the Linnen Sold and apart for that Rec^d. for Himleys Plank so much as I sold. to West while you ware here.—

Should have sent you more but Milley can inform you the Reason.

⁶⁹Abner Neale was the son of Christopher Neale and the brother-in-law of John Gray Blount. He had a plantation near New Bern and was associated with a man named Jones (Neale & Jones) in business in New Bern. He held a number of minor political offices, but seemed to lack the energy and stability to accomplish as much as his abilities might have made possible. He often appealed to John Gray Blount for advice or financial help. After his death his widow, "Milly," married Benjamin Coakley. John Gray Blount in Tripartite Agreement, John Gray Blount Papers, February 9, 1800.

I fear. Spaight Sitgreaves & myself will be turn'd out this Election[.] Sitgreaves Certainly will. *by Doct. McClure.* if report true: & Spaight and myself run hard[.] no Objection to me but being connected with the *Blounts*. which they say a deal about. I am as usual

ABNER NEALE

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr.
Washington

John Sitgreaves to John Gray Blount

NEW BERN 24 August 1787.

Dear Sir

I am to thank you for your congratulations I must confess the large Majority I had against the Doctor whose Influence with the most numerous Class of voters must of course from his practice as a Physician be very great compels me to feel my Success as a very great Compliment—when it is taken into the Account that a number of his friends were very active, & he himself more so & had secured the promises of a number of the Voters before I returned from Pitt, that a number of the people were indebted to him, & that many lies were propagated by the Billys, that is Billy Good, Billy Tisdale & Billy Bryan, & lastly that at least ten of his votes were illegal, I consider the odds between 89 & 60 as a respectable Majority. Neale notwithstanding all their Exertions might easily have succeeded, he was either too confident of Success or too indifferent, & the friends of Nixon changed the Votes of many more than wou'd have given him a Majority [2] on their first landing at the Wharf⁷⁰—he did not attend to them out of doors & had no one else to do it for him—.

With respect to Stuart & Barr's Business I am to inform you that altho the Judge has not sent his Resignation to the Governor yet, he is determined to do no more Business in that Capacity—until he does officially resign, the Governor will not appoint another—& who he will be I am at a loss to determine—.

I shall set off on Sunday for Hyde [County] & if nothing happens to compel my return home Shall proceed from thence to Washington until your Court meets—.

⁷⁰The voters came by boat.

Haines tells me his going soon to see you—.

I will thank you to direct the Clerk or his Deputy at Washington to send a Commission back by Neale or the first Opportunity directed to Basil Smith Esqr. to take the deposition [3] of James Rhodes & Pitt Rice in the suit Isaac Guion vs — I forget who, it is on the first of the Dockett—. I ordered it two Courts past & the Clerk has still neglected it—.

Make my Compliments to the good Lady & believe me to be

Yours Sincerely

JN^o. SITGREAVES

J. G. Blount Esqr.

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr.

Washington

J Parker to John Gray Blount

[PORTSMOUTH, August 30, 1787]

Lately I wrote you adviseing I had disposed of my claim on your State to Mr. Baker. Since which he has thought proper to decline takeing it. I am in negociation with a Gentleman here to Supply him Naval Stores in your Waters. do Oblige me So far as to inform if they can be had for that claim or if the money is ready & what price Naval Stores bear with your Currency—

The Nancy from London arrived last Evening. certain intelligence by her is come that 32m Infantry & Cavalry are marchd from French Flanders in to Holland to aid the republicans. England is arming to aid the Statholder & so is [2] Prussia. consequently a rupture is inevitable, judge yourself the event. let me hear from you if you please on the previous Subject and again charge me with favors done which Shall be returned allways with pleasure. by your friend & Servant

J PARKER

Portsmouth

August 30th. 1787.

Addressed: J. G. Blount Esquire

Washington

North C

Richard Dobbs Spaight to John Gray Blount

PHILADELPHIA 2^d. Septem^r. 1787

Dear Sir,

I have for a long time past flattered myself that every post would bring me a letter from you, in answer to those I have wrote you, but have not—as yet been favored with a single line. My situation here is extremely distressing; as I expected when I came away only to stay six weeks or two months at farthest, I made a money provision merely for that term, and out of that, forty one dollars, still remain in the hands of Mr. Blackledge who was to send them after me, but I have not heard from him since I left N^o. Carolina. I have now overstayed the term I counted upon, two months, and shall be here till tomorrow week, when I hope to get away provided I can get money to pay off my Accounts here and bear my expences home, which I have no other means of doing than by borrowing, and no other way of doing that, then to get some friend to lend me his name to a note for thirty days, and get it discounted at the bank, and depend for the payment of it on the remittance I expect you will make for me. You will therefore do me an essential service, by remitting on the best terms [2] terms you can such monies as you have received upon my Account, as speedily as possible. I suppose you will send the remittance to Stuart & Barr. I will there leave directions with them to whom to pay it.

The Convention will I imagine finish their business by next Saturday in that case If I can be supplied with cash I shall leave this the Monday following.

I am with regard & Esteem

Your Most Ob^t. Ser^t.

RICH^d. DOBBS SPAIGHT.

John G. Blount esquire

Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire

*Lanchan Brothers & C^o. to John Gray & Thomas Blount
with inclosure*

L'ORIENT 10th. Sep^r. 1787

Mess^{rs}. John G & Tho^s. Blount
Washington. North Carolina
Gentlemen—

It is with much Satisfaction we acquit ourselves of the Charge laid on us by our good friend Mr. Blount before he left this place, of informing you by every opportunity of the State of O/ Market, we begin by enclosing herein the present prices of your products &^c. now with us, no change having happen'd since the aforesaid Gentlemen parted from us we can add nothing thereto, but should any thing occur that can be deemed interesting we shall not fail imparting the same, being most anxious to Cultivate a Correspondence, that we shall be more Studious to render agreeable from being indebted for the introduction to the honour of your Acquaintance to our worthy friend Mr. Rich. Harrison of Alexandria, Virginia whom we much esteem & respect—

We shall no[t] shew less attention to the Interest of any of your friends, whom it might please you to recommend our House to—The Commercial one we have also at Havre under the Firm of Mangon La Forest & Comp^y.—you will find equally devoted to your Commands should you direct your Speculations to that port—. As yet we do not foresee any change that could be fore the advantage of the Shippers of Tobacco, by directing that Article to any other port in France besides this, unless certain of Meeting no demur otherways that Consideration, & the difference in the port charges would outweigh—that of the transport; no other place besides this Supplying the Irish Smuggling Trade With Tobacco, w^{ch}. furnishes a ready opportunity for the Sale of it, when the [2] the Quality suits that Market

We remain Very Respectfully

Gentlemen

Y^r. Most Obedient Humbl^e. Servant

LANCHAN FRERIS & C^o

Muslin .....	) in the ware h ^s
Callicoos .....	) from the sale
Chintzes)
Bourbon Coffee from 20-25 with	
	10 p C ^t . discot.

The port Charges are less than
in any other Port in France.

Lanchon Brothers & C^o.

Thomas Blount to John Gray & Thomas Blount

HAVRE DE GRACE 11th. Sep^r. 1787.

Gent.

I rec^d. your favor of the 4th June on the 15th Ult^o. at L'Orient—and in consequence thereof Should have taken passage in a Vessel then there bound for Baltimore. but the particular Situation of the Bills remitted me by Mess^{rs}. Wills & John Cowper made it indispensibly necessary for me to return to London & I am thus far on my way—Should a favorable opportunity offer to any part of the United States between this & the 10th. Octo^o. you may expect to See me this fall, if not, I hope you will not blame me for postponing the Voyage till the Spring—My only reason for doing so, will be to preserve my health (which at present is but tolerable) and avoid the disagreeableness of a Winters Passage, for [2] believe me I am very anxious to get home, & sufficiently sensible that by continuing abroad I shall spend a great deal of Money to little purpose.

The remittance you have made me is greater than I asked for or expected; of course you had a right to Suppose it would be ample, & had I rec^d. your Letter before I left London it would have been so; but this trip has been so very expensive, owing chiefly to my not speaking the French language, that, admitting the Bills to be duly paid & the £100 via New York to get safe to hand, the balance, after paying my Debts, will not exceed thirty Guineas & out of them I am to pay my Attorneys' fees:—so that at any rate I shall want at least £60 Sterl^g. more—and as I shall consider all future expenses, & a considerable part of the past, wholly my own, I beg you to raise it out of such part of my individual property as will most readily command it, & remit it as soon as convenient to Mess^{rs}. Alex^r. & Benj^a. Contee—that you paid Mess^{rs}. Skipwith & C^o. [3] in the manner you did, is a very fortunate circumstance—had you sent your Tob^o.

to L'Orient you must have lost Money by it—for the Farmers general, having compleated their purchases for the year, say 15000 hh^{ds}. refuse to receive any more—so that there is now no Sale for it in any part of this Kingdom but to the Irish Smugglers—who consequently buy at a very low price—hence forward I do not think it will answer in any Market in Europe at more than three Dollars P100^{wt} & it has become so dangerous an article to Speculate in, that I would not be concerned in it at more than 20/. Cur^v. further than necessity obliges—In the present Situation of affairs, farming is the best Business the Americans can follow, admitting that they make only a bare subsistence—and were they wise, they would burn their Ships & make plough-shares of the iron—these being my real Sentiments I cannot but be pleased at your determination to quit merchandizing till we have better times which must come with [4] the first change—for worse, in point of Commerce, cannot be—On hearing a few days before I left England that Mr. Henry Peterson resided in Yorkshire, I sent him the Letter that was forwarded to me by my friend Dr. Williamson accompanied by a Note informing him where I was—to which he immediately returned a very friendly & polite answer containing among other sentences declaratory of his great respect for his friend, the following—“If you come this way I shall be glad to act up to Dr. Williamsons recommendations, & if a commercial connection suits your inclination in Yorkshire, you may Command the Services of the above mentioned House (meaning that in which his Son is a partner) to whom you will please to propose your own plan in favouring me with an answer to this Letter—” This I rec^d. at the moment I was leaving London & as yet have made no reply to it—when I get back I shall write him a Letter of thanks & inform him of our intention to wait for better times—I have figured to myself an idea that his acquaintance may hereafter be beneficial to [5] to us, & for that Reason would willingly take some pains to see him—The only thing I can discover in the Politics of Europe that seems likely to conduce to the Interest of America, is the prospect of a War which I have the satisfaction to think (tho' you Know I am no Politician) the greatest powers will Speedily be drawn into by the Commotions in Holland—the American Revolution has diffused a Spirit of Liberty throughout the world, & among the Mynheers the flame is too violent to be extinguished but with their lives—a war is therefore inevitable, & if, France & England do not take part in it, it will not be

the fault of the two Kings for they have both manifested the greatest willingness & are making the most vigorous preparations—on the contrary the people of both nations seem much averse to it & whether Reason or Ambition will preponderate is difficult to determine; but I hope the latter—Should such an Event take place while I am here, you may [6] be assured of the earliest information of it— & then for Speculation!—with Love to the family & Comp^{ts}. to friends. I am

as heretofore

Yours

THO. BLOUNT

P. S.

Since the 3^d. Febr^y. I have written you six Letters Viz, the 10th March, 4th Ap^l. 18th D^o. 1st. May & 7th. & 28th July—
Addressed: Mess^{rs}. John G. & Tho. Blount

Washington

N^o Carolina

P. The Cap. Peoples
via Philadelphia

Thomas Blount to John Gray & Thomas Blount

LONDON Octo. 4th. 1787

Gentlemen,

From Havre de Grace (where I dated my last Letter to you) I proceeded immediately to this place & since my arrival have rec^d. from our brother William, a Bill drawn by Constable Rucker & C^o. on their Agent here for £63.1.8 which is already paid—as are also those sent me sometime ago by Mess^{rs}. Wills & John Cowper—The principal creditors of Fulwar Skipwith & C^o., among whom are those who attached in my hands have granted them a Letter of License for three years—of course the attachments are null & void—therefore you have no danger to apprehend from that quarter; but in order to guard effectually against such evils as might hereafter result from an irregular Settlement I consider it my duty to see your Acco^t. properly balanced in the Books here, which cannot be done but by Mr. Skipwiths' particular order & as yet his attorney, or agent, has not heard a word from him on that Subject—[2] It is a Business that, in my opinion, cannot be too soon or too cautiously ad-

justed; & if you feel the necessity of it as forcibly as I do, I am sure you will not suffer him to use the least delay in imparting the information necessary to the purpose—My anxiety on this head, & the doubtful situation of Mrs. Hills business, induce me to relinquish all though[t] of leaving Europe till the Spring—How that determination may accord with your wishes, I will not pretend to judge—I fear not very well—However, I have the Satisfaction to think if I have rendered you any service by staying thus long, I may render you still more by staying longer—If an immediate war takes place between France & England (and we have every Reason to expect it) I may possibly be able to give you such information as may lead to an important Speculation—That the political cloud which lately bursted on the devoted heads of the dastardly Mynheers⁷¹ must be productive of a War between France & England (if not a general one) is too obvious to be doubted by any body—the people of this Country not only [3] believe it, but wish for it—and so prevalent is the opinion that Hostilities will immediately Commence that 25 P Ct. was actually given yesterday at Lloyds Coffee House to insure a continuance of Peace till the 26th Inst. & if we may judge from appearance, the Insurer made a foolish bargain of it.

If the augmentation of Armies & the most rapid equipment of Fleets are any indications of hostile intentions, a War is certainly near at hand,—& I give you the information that you may be prepared to receive the earliest advantages from it that the nature of your situation may enable you to take—It appears to be the Wish of the Country that America should remain neuter & it will evidently be her best policy to do so—as she will thereby monopolize great part of the carrying Business & probably enjoy a free trade to the West India Islands of both powers—By the help of your advice it is possible that I might be able to make a Contract for the supply of naval Stores—let me hear from you on this Subject fully as soon as possible—Tobacco has already risen Considerably & should our hopes be confirmed will probably rise still more—therefore the advice I give [4] you in my last Letter respecting that article is not to be attended to—The Duke of Brunswick, At the head of about 20.000 Prussians & between 5 & 10.000 Stadtholderians, entered the Netherlands about three Weeks ago & has already extinguished the last Spark of *Liberty* that remained in Europe without Shedding a single drop of Blood—the Prince of Orange is reinstated in all his for-

⁷¹Dutchmen.

mer powers—& those execrable wretches who by assuming, dishonored, the *sacred name of Patriot*, are now Suffering, from the hand of Tyranny, the ignominious punishment due to their distinguished pusellanimity—I am now free from Debt & have Twenty Guineas in pocket—which, together with the £ 36.18.4 yet to come of the £ 100 you order'd to be remitted me from Newyork, & the £ 60. I expect in consequence of my last request, will answer every purpose— & less will not Suffice. W. Blount in his Letter of the 30th July, says he has heard that a Lady at the Hague & myself have formed a mutual attachment for each other &, because she has much Money, he advises me to marry her—tell him that, *for that very reason*, I will not—Sooner than marry any woman on earth that has Dutch blood in her veins, either for [5] Love or Money or both united, I would ravish my grand Mother, live a Beggar, & die of famine in a ditch—But it happens that Love & Money are both wholly on her side I have neither Seen the one, nor felt the other.

Compliments &c. &c. to those who have claims on them.

Yours

Most Sincerely

THO. BLOUNT

Addressed: Mess^{rs}. John G. & Tho. Blount
Washington
N^o Carolina

p the Industry
Capt. Connor
via Virginia

William Good⁷² to John Gray Blount

NEW BERN 6th of Octor. 1787—

D^r. Sir

I Wrote you Sum few Days paste That oram [had] Given me Mr. Blackledges Recept, with an order to Receive Mr. Barrs Cargoe, and at that Time would not Sattisfie me, that he would Settle with Mr. Barrs Attorneys, But Says that he will now Settle with us, and Desired me to Write to you to Come over for that purpose, and bring whatsoever Demands or papors There may be against him, and as I do not Know Exactly what

⁷²See John Sitgreaves to [John Gray Blount], New Bern, August 12, 1787, above, p. 336.

Damages there may be, I Cannot well Tell how to Make out his Acc^t., Therefore I Beg You will Come over Quick, as he is now in the mind to Settle, and more Executions is now Served on him, Prerhaps we may Git payment, other ways I think that nothing will Ever be got from him.

I am D^r S^r. with Due Respect

Your H.ble Servant

WILLIAM GOOD

John. G. Blount Esq^r.)

)

Washington —)

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r. -

Merch^t.

Washington

Samuel Johnston⁷³ to John Gray Blount

HAYES Oct^r. 7th. 1787

Dear Sir

I am much obliged to you for receiving the three pieces of Linen from Captⁿ. Kirby, if no immediate opportunity offers to this place be so good as forward them to Mr. McKenzie at Skewackey who will forward them to me. Inclosed is Captain Kirby's Rece^t. I am

Dear Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

SAM JOHNSTON

[2] Rec^d. Aug^t. 14 1787 from Willing, Morris & Swanwick One Bundle Cont^g. three pieces linen, which I engage to deliver unt^o.

⁷³Samuel Johnston, a native of Scotland, was one of the most prominent citizens of North Carolina during and after the American Revolution. His political offices included the presidency of the Provincial Council (an office which might well be called that of acting governor) in the time of the transition of the colony from royal to patriot rule. He contributed much to the state's first constitution and the conservative bent of that document is attributed largely to him. He was a member of the Continental Congress (1780-1782) and governor of North Carolina (1787); while governor he presided over both the conventions (Hillsboro and Fayetteville) which dealt with the ratification of the Federal Constitution of 1787. Johnston also was one of the first senators from North Carolina. From 1800 to 1803 he was a judge of the Superior Court. Wheeler, *Historical Sketches*, II, 91.

Mr. John G Blunt at Washington North Carolina the danger of the Seas excepted, having Signed two Rec^{ts}. to Serve as one, freight being paid in Philad^a.—

Directed to Sam^l. Johnston Esq^r.

CHA^l. KIRBY

Edenton N^o. Carolina

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Washington

Charles Gerrard to John Gray Blount

TARBOROUGH Oct^r. 10th. 1787.—

Sir

You'll receive by Mr. Robinson 4½ y^{ds}. white flannel for Mrs. Blount—

The Coffee you mention'd Some time paste that was to come by Halls Waggon has never Come to hand.—we're entirely out of Rum, and the Salt and Sugar is much wanting.—I've delivered Mr. Wright (agreeable to your order) two hundred dollars, and have on hand about 175 more.—Mrs. Harvey is very anxious for the plank and workmen to Come up and finish her room before the assembly meets.—(I think) from the present appearance of the Scarcity of Corn up the Country, 'twould be good policy to buy all the Corn we possibly Could in this quarter, to barter for Tobacco the ensuing winter and Spring. — Iron is much wanting.—

I am Sir

Y^r. Ob^t. Humble Servant

CHARLES GERRARD

Addressed: J. G. Blount Esq^r.

Merch^t.

Washington

James White to John Gray Blount

New York 7^{ber}. ^[Sept. 3] ~~[October]~~ 14th. [1787]

D^r Sir

I was extremely sorry to hear by your letter of the 27th. ult^o., of your indisposition. I hope you have had no relapse.

Your Kind attention to making the earliest, & best advantage of the warrants deserves my thanks. I seem to be unfortunate in not being able to get any money immediately: but, on the other hand, I congratulate myself in the friendly assistance that is likely to turn the unpromising business to its present expectation.

I am

Y^r. obliged & obed^t. Serv^t.

JAMES WHITE

Addressed: John G. Blount, esquire

Washington

N^o. Carolina

Free James White

*John Barry & Co. to William Blount and Postscript
by William Blount to John Gray Blount*

CADIZ 22 October 1787

Hon^{bl}. William Blunt

Boston.

Sir,

We have before us your esteemed favour of 30 December 1786 from Boston, by which we observe you have formed a society with your Bro^s. Messieurs John Gray Blount & Thomas Blunt under the firm of J. G. & Tho^s. Blunt to carry on Business at Washington in N^o. Carolina, to which establishment we sincerely wish every success & shall gladly embrace any occasions that may present themselves, to cultivate their correspondence to mutual advantage & satisfaction

At present & for along time passed, all business between the Continent, & this country has been at a stand in consequence of a truce concluded between the Spaniards & Algerines, which has emboldened the latter to venture out into the Atlantic & of-course rendered it very hazardous for american ships to attempt to come so far to the Southward as this Port. We have had some cargoes of your products latterly in English & Spanish Bottoms, which have been sold to very little advantage, as this place [2] is generally well supplied with such articles. Enclosed you will find a price current of your exports & imports with relation to

this Country, together with a note of the prices at which Tar, Turpentine & c a [*sic*] have been disposed of for sometime back & the prices are likely to fetch in 3 or 4 months hence agreeable to your request on this subject.

Whatever may have been the sentiments of this Court towards the Americans at the Conclusion of the Peace, it is certain we have since seen no instance of their having preferred the Com-monda [commodities] of any nation in particular, only in proportion as they found those of the one more reasonable & fitter for their purpose than those of the other. As to a contract it would be loss of time (& it would certainly be attended with loss of money) to sue for one. Some of our acq^{ce}. men of great weight & influence, who were very powerfully backed at Court, solicited Contracts for articles as indifferent in themselves as those you intend to engage in, & notwithstanding some have been bluntly & some indirectly refused by the Minister. In fine private persons have been totally excluded from Contracts since the establishment of the National Bank of St. Charles, which has ingrossed all the Contracts, that private persons were formerly in [3] possession of & we suppose they will continue to do during the present administration. We take this opportunity of tendering you our services & remain very truly

Sir,

Your most obed^t hum Serv:^{ts}

JOHN BARRY & Co.

This Letter from the Tenor of it seems to be in answer to one by me wrote from New York to Mr Harrison an American Merchant Resident a[t] Cadiz generally called the American Consul at Cadiz

The Signers to this letter I suppose are Partners of his but I never heard of them before—

To

The Hon^{ble}. Will^m. Blunt

Washington N^o. Carolina

free

James White (3)

[Note on back in William Blount's writing.]

I will set out for

Greenville on Wednesday

PRICE CURRENT CADIZ 23 OF OCTOBER 1787

Imports

Wheat....	Spanish	pr faneg Rvn.	50 a[to]	55
	Sicily		36 a	38
	Barbary		34 a	36
	French		none	
	American		30	
	Baltic		28	
Barley ...	Spanish		20	
	Barbary		18	
	Northern		16	
Horse Beans.....	pr. heaped Faneg		36	
Indian Corn			26	
Garbanzas			135	
Rice.....	Carolina.....	pr. Quintal Ps.....	5	
	Levant		4 6/8	
White or Kidney Beans	P Sac of 208 lb.....		5 a 6	
Tobacco Maryland)			
Virginia .....	)		no sale	
White Oak Staves....	Pipe	pr. 1200	80	
	Hogshead		55	
	Barril		25	
	Hambro Butt		300	
	Dantzig ditto			
White Oak plank & Timber	pr Codo of		4	
576 Cubical Inches				
Deal Boards	pr. 120		48	
American Flour	pr Barril of 2 Ct.		9	
	Pitch		4	
	Tar		3	
	Turpentine		no sale	
Pork			24	
Beef			16	
Candles.....	Tallow....	pr.11. Rvn.	2 1/2	
	Sperma Ceti		10	
	Wax		10 1/2	
Bees Wax			6 a 7	
Bacallao, or dried Cod.....	pr. Quintal	Ps.	7 1/2	
Pickled Salmon	pr. Tierce		16	
	Herring	pr. Barril	6	

Hydes.....	Buenos Ayres pr. 25 lls. Rpte.....	32 a 42
	Caraca	} 6/8 a 7/8
	Havana	
Havana Sugar.....	White .....pr. arrobe	32 a 34
	Brown .....	.....
Cacao	Caracca..... pr. 110 lls Ps	34 a 38
	Guayaquail	17 a 18

Exports

Wine.....	San Lucar.....per Pipe.....Ps.	90 a 120
	Sherry	100 a 160
	Malaga	60 a 100
	Benecarlo	24 a 30
Brandy Holland proof		60
	Oil proof	80
	Refino	100
Olive Oil Exportation prohibited		
Filberds	pr. bag of 2 fanegs.....	71¼
Almonds in the Shell.....	pr. faneg	6
	Shelled.....Pr. Quintal	14
Malaga Raisins	pr. Barril. Rvn. ..	70 a 75
	pr. Jar	24
Figs	pr. Quintal	15 a 16
Olives.....	pr. Jar of 4 Gallons.....	10
Capers.....	per arrobe.....	50 a 75
Anchovies of Malaga pr. lls		11½ a 2
	Genoa	11½ a 2
Oranges.....	Serville pr. Chest.....Rpta.....	36
	China	40
Lemons	pr. ½ Chest	18
Salt	pr. Last	80
Cochineal	pr arrobe	704 a 814
	Sylvestre	96
Indico	Tifsate pr. lls	
	Flor	24 a 28
	Sobresalinte	20 a 23
	Corte	15 a 18
Cascarilla or Bark		5 a 10
Cantharides		40
Ipecacuana		400
Jalap	pr. Quintal	435

Manna.....	Optima pr. lls	10	
	Common	9	
Anato of Portugal			_____
	La Vera p oz		_____
Balsam.....	Peru	58	
	Tolu	30	a 32
	Capivi	10	
Oil of Almonds		7	
Saffron		120	
China Rhubarb		40	
Sarsaparrila	pr. Quintal	120	a 2172
Liquorice Ball.....	pr. lls.....	6	a 7
Castile Soap		on 14	quanty
Logwood	pr. Quintal.....	30	
Barcelona Handkerchiefs.....	per. doz.....	120	a 210
Silk Hose		450	a 675
Broad Cloths best Spanish pr. Vara. Rvn.....			_____
Modes		10	a 11
Wool.....	Spanish, washed pr. arrobe.....		none....
	Vicuna	pr. 11.....	41½
Copper of Peru.....	pr. Quintal.....	232½	
	New-Spain		_____

[2] *Exchanges*

London	37 @ 1/8	Madrid at par at 15 days sight
Paris	76	Lisbon 156 r ^s . p v
Amsterdam	93	Genoa 126
16 Ounces 1 pound, 25 lls. 1 arrobe, 4 arrobes 1		
Quintal of 104 lls. English		
5 Streaked fanegs equal 8 Bushells Winchester		
4 ditto equal to 3 heaped Fanegs		
1 Last Salt 2 Tons		
The San Lucar Pipe 132 Gallons		
Benicarlo..... ditto 126		
The Pipe of Oil about 120 Gallons or 880 lls.		
1 Var equal to 33 Inches English		
16 quarts 1 Rial plate, 8 Rials of plate 1 peso or Curr ^t Dollar		
1/ or mexican Dollar 20 Rials Vellon or 10 5/8 Rs. plate		
N B. Tarr was being Sustained these four months past from 3		
to 4 f P Barril, Turpentine from 2 to 3 & being very little called		
for by the Spaniards, & tis likely these prices will continue to be		
obtained these four or Six months to come if a War should not		
break out (of which there is some appearance)		

*Thomas Blount to John Gray & Thomas Blount*LONDON October 31st. 1787

Gentlemen,

When I did myself the pleasure of writing you on the 4th Inst. all Europe was in an uproar & the general word was War—at present all is peace & quietness as you will see by the inclosed declaration, of the Ministers of England, & Counter declaration, of the Minister of France, taken from the Public Ledger of this Morning⁷⁴—the struggle for Liberty in Holland has ended in the ruin of the Patriots, or rather, those who called themselves so, for had they been true patriots, they would have gained complete Liberty—Mr. Skipwith has not yet instructed his Agent to credit your account for the payment he received in Virginia & I am fearful there has been neglect on your part as well as his—I consider it necessary [2] for your safety that it should be done immediately—a commission for the examination of Mrs. Hills witnesses will be issued with all possible dispatch. I have, however, already told you that the better way of proceeding in that Business is, to send a Witness or two over to be examined before a master in Chancery, If Dennison is lost, send another of the Crew—you may find out all their names, I suppose, by referring to Ellis' Books—if that cannot be done, our chance of recovering will be very slender.

Of the £100 Ster- to be remitted me from Newyork I have yet rec^d. but £63.1.8 the residue I look for daily—I shall actually want £50 or £60 More—which pray send it in time to get here by the—middle of Feb^y. direct to the care of Mr. William Murdock N^o. 8 Crutchedfriars as Mr. Contee will about that [3] time sail for Amer[ica and] I shall certainly accompany him if [I can] not get away sooner—I shall empower John Browne esq^r. N^o. 20 Lothbury to act as my Attorney for the recovery of the Legacy—peace may be relied on & you may regulate speculations

⁷⁴The clipping is attached to his letter, but it gives no information as to the date or name of the paper from which it was taken.

accordingly—the proceedings of the late American Convention are just published here & generally much applauded—

Yours Most Sincerely

THO. BLOUNT

Addressed: Mess^{rs}. John G & Tho: Blount
Washington
N^o Carolina

P The Friendly
Cap^t Milford
via Norfolk

Nicholas Romaine to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK. Nov^r. 12. 1787

Dear Sir:

I have this day drawn on order upon you for Thirty pounds North Carolina Currency in favour of M^r. Amos Troop on Account of the chair shipped you by your Brother in 1786—
I wish you to account with M^r. Troop for the sum which the chair has neated upwards of the above thirty pounds in which manner as he may advise you.

I am with much esteem

Your Ob Serv^t.

NIC ROMAYNE

To. John Gray Blount Esquire
North Carolina

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Washington
North Carolina

John Haywood to John Gray Blount

WALNUT POINT 18. No. 1787.

Dear Sir,

M^r. Blackledge has promised me he will execute & send up tomorrow a Bond which will secure the State in the Payment of

the Tobacco by him taken⁷⁵ and which remains yet unaccounted for, to the amount I think of 60,000^{lb.} and somewhat more; I have not his Rec^{t.} for the Tobacco by him delivered to Stewart at hand & therefore am at a loss for the exact quantity; but the am^{t.} of that Rec^{t.} being deducted from 93,467^{lb.} the quantity taken, will show the quantity to be yet accounted for; permit me to request you will see to the filling up of this Bond & that you will become a Witness to the Execution of it as your handwriting is well known; I will also thank you just to write me that you Saw it executed;—the particular situation in which I am placed by this unguarded Conduct of Mr. Blackledge will I hope apologize for the [2] the liberty I have taken in making these Requests.

My best Respects to Mr^{s.} Blount,
accept them yourself and believe
me

your Friend & Ser^{t.}
J HAYWOOD

M Blount
Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire

Fulwar Skipwith to John Gray & Thomas Blount

[PHILADELPHIA, November 21, 1787]

Mess^{rs.} Jn^{o.} G. & Th^{o.} Blount

Gentlemen

With this I have the pleasure to give Conveyance to two Letters [letters], the one from your T. B. of London & the other from your Brother W B of New York; both of which I imagine will advise you of my late Arrangement in London & of my Arrival in this Country; it will therefore be needless for me to add any thing on the nature of either.

The subject of this Letter is the being furnished with 1500 or 2000 [2] Barrels of Tar, if attainable on easy terms & in the course of Six Weeks. As here I am unable fairly to ascertain the price of this Article, I will only observe that on the Delivery of the aforesaid quantity, should we not agree (of which I think there is little Danger) I will agree for any two or three Mer-

⁷⁵Richard Blackledge had taken this from the public tobacco stored in his warehouse with the expectation of replacing it. This action gave him a tremendous amount of difficulty, as will appear in later letters.

chants to affix their current price I beg leave to observe that the Tar must be delivered at some Landing in Virginia, as the Ship which takes it on board is not at liberty to load elsewhere

I will refer you to T B Letters for European Information [3]

Wishing to hear from you through the earliest Channel

I remain with great Respect

Gentlemen

Your Mo Ob Servant

FULWAR SKIPWITH

Philadelphia

Nov^r. 21. 1786 [7]

Addressed: Mess^{rs}. Jn^o. G. & Tho Blount

Merchants

Washington

N^o Carolina

Constable, Rucker & Co. to John Gray & Thomas Blount

NEWYORK 30 Nov^r 1787

Mess^{rs}. J. G & T. Blount

Gentⁿ

For want of any thing worthy of communicating since receipt of your favour 23^d July it has remained unacknowledged—The whole of the Tobaccos shipped from N. Carolina have arrived safe, a considerable part which went to Europe remains unsold as the Farmers, Gen^l. decline purchasing even at 30#—being the last price at which they bought—this you will readily perceive will eventuate a loss; so that you were fortunate in not having made the Shipment which you proposed—Tobacco is at present in demand here 5^d a 7^d. is given for it as in quality—Our Advices from Cork of the 14 Ul^t. speak in the most confident terms [of war's] taking place [2] shou^d it actually happen it can not fail to benefit this Country—the new Constitution goes heavily in our State—the Mercantile Interest is strongly for it, but the party in power will use every exertion to oppose it so that the Event with us is very doubtfull—

Annexed you have State of our MKS

We are respectfully yours

Constable, Rucker & C^o

Wheat 6/6
 Flax Seed—7/a 7/6
 Bohea Tea 3/.
 Hyson—12/.
 Pitch P B¹ 16/a 18/
 Tarr 14/
 Turpentine 14/
 Addressed: Mess^{rs}. J. G. & T. Blount
 Washington
 North Carolina

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount with earlier letters: [John Gray Blount to Thomas Blount] June 3, 1787, [John Gray Blount to William Blount June 8, 1787], and [John Gray Blount to Thomas Blount] January 4, 1787

Reply from John Gray Blount, January 4, 1787 [1788] Attached

LONDON Decem^r. 5th. 1787.

Dear Sirs,

Mr. Skipwith arrived here a few days ago & to my great astonishment informs me you have not paid him for the Goods Shipped you last fall. If so, what could be your motive for telling me otherwise in your Letter of the 4th June?—the deception has served only to mortify me, but I can easily conceive that it was intended to set aside the attachments I told you of. that, however, is done by means of a Letter of Licence, which leaves Mr. Skipwith at liberty to transact his own Business & it is by his particular desire that I now write to request you to remit him to this place as speedily as possible—His situation requires relief & he relies on your best exertions—as it is a matter of indifference to him what [2] the Remittance is made in, you will consult your own Convenience—I would recommend Bills in preference to any thing, provided they are good & can be easily obtained, as produce of every Kind, since the rumour of War has subsided, has fallen much in value—Having asked a further supply of cash for my own use & shewn that it is necessary, I trust you will not fail of granting my request—the residue of the New York £100. has not yet come to hand—& exclusive of that I shall *really* want £60 more—w^h. please remit to Mr. William

Murdoch N^o. 8 Crutchedfriars—as, if it does not come forward before the 1st. March, the time I have fixt on for leaving this Country, I shall be obliged to borrow, & he is the only man that has both power & inclination to lend me—My present plan is to take Passage to Maryland in a Ship Chartered by Mr. Contee who will go in her himself [3] the Business of the [Legacy is] quite at a stand for want of authentice proof of the death of Abednego Hudson, & unless that can be had it must be dropt—Mr. Ellis' certificate is not worth a rush—If there is a man alive who was present at his death it will be well worth while to send him over as a Witness—direct him to John Browne Esqr. N^o. 20 Lothbury—he acts from this time as my attorney—With duty & respects where due

I am

as ever

Yours

THO. BLOUNT

P. S

Our news is altogether of the pacific Kind—I don't Know but it will be as well to make Mr. Murdoch your Agent & make your paym^t. thro him to Mr. S—[Skipwith]

[*John Gray Blount to Thomas Blount*]

[Copy]*

June 3^d 87

To Tom Blount

I am sorry to find M Skipwiths Creditors have attached in your hands in London as I have actually paid considerable Sums already in Virginia but they surely cannot make you liable for more than is due at this time And that we shall have no objections to paying his Creditors as soon as him I have sold the 100 Hh^d Tob^o. which inform'd you had purchased & intended for France for finding no freight could be had on saving principals in time to answer the purpose & having sold the John & had no Vessell our own therefore sold & will remit the profits to Mess^r Contee Having thus arranged matters & being determind to quit so uncertain a business as the dry Goods trade hope you will come immediately home unless your matrimonial plan prevents I wrote you of 2^d Ul^t & the Contents of that Letter comes in here

*This and the two succeeding letters seem to be copies retained by John Gray Blount.

[*John Gray Blount to W^m. Blount*]

[Copy]

[June 8, 1787]

to W^m. Blount

That I had sold the 100 Hh^d. Tob^o. & relinquished the bargain & taken Bills for 160 lb which I wish'd remitted Tom Blount to the Care of Contees requested him to write to Tom & explain necessity of coming home & for Tom not to show my letter or what was perhaps better not to send it about Navel Stores to N York &c.

To W^m Blount of 16 June I hope you did not send forward the Letter for Tom which I inclosed you in Phil^a. & Col^o Eldride as since that Mes^r Pennoch & C^o. have drawn Orders on me for the full amount of our Debt which I had rather pay here than in England therefore if you have not sent forward that Letter you will suppress it & send forward the one herewith & write him yourself urging his coming immediately home, but do not mention that the money is not fully paid you will see I have informed him the Remittance to N York will be to his friends Contee this I have done that he may not impower them to pen his Letters & also to enable him to draw to get away

* * * * *

[*John Gray Blount to Thomas Blount*]

[Copy]

4 Jun 87

To Tom

I have the pleasure to inform you that I have made full payment to Mess^{rs}. Fulwar Skipwith & C^o. for the Goods which were purchased of them in London, they have taken the whole payment in this Country in Produce at stipulated prices more to our Interest than shiping them[.] this matter being arranged you have nothing further to detain you in Europe against your inclination as I would not wish to import any more Goods until

our trade is on a more respectable footing I have so ordered that one Hundred Sterling will be remitted your Friends Alex^r. & Benjⁿ. Contee for your use by way of N York with this supposition that you may have left London before it arrives I am the more induced to believe this as have not rec^d. a Letter from you since early in Feb^y when you intended for France agreeable to our then plan of business Nothing of moment since my last all well

as ever

J G B

to Tho Blount

in the Care of Mes^r.

Alex & Benjⁿ. Contee

Merchts

N^o. 2 Crescent London

Michail Rogers to John Gray Blount

WAKE COUNTY Dec 24th 1787

Sir

I saw a Warrant for 274 Acres of Land Allow^d. me & Indorsed by me to G Gray & Thos. Blunt & by them Sold to Colo. James Roberson on Cumberland I Never Conveyed that Property to any person Neither was it my hand Writing (I mean the Indorsement) How Ever You Came by it you Can Best tell I Know I Never Sold it & to be Short in the Matter I mean to be paid for it & I shall Expect an Ans^r. from you Or I Shall proceed to do myself Justice According to Law I Should Have done it Long ago had it not been for the Acquaintance I Have with your brother Mr. Wm. Blount & the Solicitation of your friend.⁷⁶

I am Sir Your Ob^t Servt

MICH ROGERS

Mr. John Gray Blount Esqr.

Mr John Gray Blount

Mercht

Washington

⁷⁶This is one of the few personal complaints, possibly the only one, found against the Blounts for ascribing land titles to someone without that person's permission.

*Stuart & Barr to John Gray Blount*PHILADELPHIA 31 dec^r. 1787

John G. Blount Esqr

Dear Sir

We have duly Rec^d your Esteemed favours & thank your for your attention to oure Troublesome Affairs with Oram we approve of your plan of Setling with him & Sincareley hope you may get it Effected in the Manner you propose at Same time we are Realley Mortified that we Should be the Meanes of throwing in your Way Such a Troublesome Job, we have allso Rec^d. the Sun^{ds} Contained in your Bill of Ladeing and are Concerned that we must acquaint you that flaxseed has this Season Been the wost [worst] article that you Could have sent owing to the Quantitys which has Been in oure Market[.] it Broke at 7/6 per Bushell & has Continued falling every day & the Last sales has been 5/6[.] what it will Bring at this time is uncartain we expect it must be sold for Oyle or Ly over to the Next Season, we have Loaded 4 Saile with that article all most all on Freight Viz one Ship & three Brigs, three of them oure Own—We Shall use oure Best Endeavours in the Sale of it, Inclosed you have Invoice for the Half Ton Nail Rods, one Box one Barrell & a Small bundle for M^{rs} Blount Being the Proceeds of the Caske Rice, the fright &^c to your account, we find the Rice good & Sold it for 24/ PCt but with difficulty Because it was not in a proper Rice Caske so much for Pregudice—We wish you had Been more Perticular in Dicribeing what M^{rs} Blount Wanted, as oure JB would take a Perticular Pleasure in obligeing her, for want of that, he has Been obliged to Send them, by Supposition, & Hope the[y] may please—

On the 9 Instant, Oure Brig Jenny, Daniel Car Tillinghart Master, Left oure Capes all well for Dublin, where she is to Stay but 15 Days, & Returns to your place & to your address,. Please Provide aboute 125 Barrells Good Pitch, and 1000 Barrells Tar, for her as Cargo, with 14 Thousand Good Barrell Staves for to Stow her, she will in all Likelihood be with you [2] by the first of march, or Perhaps sooner, Mess^{rs} Tooles Will furnish you with 30 HHds of the Best Quality of Tobacco to put in her We have wroted him of this Date to furnish it, acquaint thim with the Recipt of this order to thim—We would wish you to Substi-

tute Part of the Pitch, you are to Get from R. Blacklege for this Cargo, see that it be the Best Stone pitch & if Possible have them, & The Tar Barrels of Good seasond Staves, and withoute any pins for Rolling in the Heads of the Tar or Pitch⁷⁷ see them well Coopered under your own Care, on the arrival of the Brig with you have her Hove down & Give her the Cheapest Bottom that will answer, and Give her all the dispatch in your power, when Loaded, she is to Proceed Immediately for Greenock, to the Direction of Mr John Stuart, who has oure Instructions &c. The Bread she will want will be Sent to your Care, by the next opportunity, then Instructions we send you in time, that you may be prepared for her, Oure J B intends setting oute for your place in aboute one Month, or Sooner but may be disappointed as oure Famileys, has Been Greatly afflicted, the following Relation of Oure Missfortunes, we know will afflict you, as you have Been oure Common Friend, one the 12 Instant JB Lost his Oldest Son James, with a Putrid Sore throate or Scarlet Feavour, on the Day we Buried him, his Second Son & Only Child was taken with the Same Complainte, & now Lies at the pointe of Death, a mere Shadow, & on the 18^t Inst Mr Stuart lost his youngest Daughter, with the Same Complainte, & has another Now Daingerious of the Same Disorder—all his other Children have be Sent from home & Continue all well as yet, how Long the[y] will god onley Knows, this dispensation of Providence Sets havoc on us—Please urge the Mess^{rs} Whites to their Dutey, to heare of your Wellfare & Have your answer will Greatley

Oblige your most Humble

Serts

STUART & BARR

P S upon Consideration we think the Brig wont want heaving Down until her Return here.

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Merchant
Washington

⁷⁷Tar and pitch were taken to wharves and markets by rolling the barrels on the ground. One horse could draw several barrels when they were attached to each other by shafts fitted into the pins in the heads of the barrels.

Edward Hall⁷⁸ to [John Gray Blount]

Dear Sir

I rec^d your Letter by M^{rs}. Harvey and Note the contents—

I observe well what you say respecting the allowance the Assembly would be willing to allow Ralph Macnairs Orphin,—I only mean to ask M^r. Macnairs private debts and them I cannot possibly ascertain, but I do not in my conscience think they would amount to more than 2500 or 3000 £ an allowance I do not think the Assembly would by any means think too extravagant for the bring^g. up, and educating the three boys—There are also two tracts of land in Orange County which is all the property I know of belonging to R Macnair's private estate—but There are debts to a [2] very considerable amount due Ralph and Ebenezer Macnair—but I do not presume to ask for a drop of that property—

This information you may be pleased to lay before the Committee which have these matters under consideration & if I was on Oath before them in person I could say no more—& in a hope that this may answer I remain

Your Most Ob^t Sev^t

EDWARD HALL

LETTERS FOR 1788-1789

Thomas Blount to John Gray & Thomas Blount

LONDON January 2^d. 1788.

Gent,

About ten days ago Mr. Skipwith took a Sudden & Secret departure for France & as it is not probable he will ever visit this Island again I would advise you by all means to avoid Sending any thing here to his address.—let M^r. Murdock be your Agent & your Monies will be properly applied—M^r. Warringtons' Attachment, of which I sent you a Copy, is yet valid, as he never Signed the Letter of Licence—a circumstance I Knew not at the time of writing you last—of Course if your Debt is really not paid the payment must be made here; or a legal discharge cannot be obtained—I shall begin my homeward Passage

⁷⁸Edward Hall, a merchant of Tarboro, was the executor of MacNair's estate. MacNair, who died at Richmond, Virginia (October, 1784), was a Tory during the Revolution and had had his property confiscated. *State Records of North Carolina*, XVII, 10, 426; XIX, 672; XX, 112.

before the 1st. March (unavoidable accidents [2] excepted) & expect to be with you by the first of May at farthest. I will write you more fully on the 10th Inst. via Maryland—The Compt^s. of the Merry Season to you—& all—

Yours as before

THO. BLOUNT

Addressed: Mess^{rs}. John G & Tho. Blount

Washington

N^o. Carolina

p. Packet New York

William Blount to John Gray Blount

GREENVILLE Sunday January 4th 1788

Simpson¹ & myself have come down from Tom Halls this Morning and He comes on to Washington today because He can't get his Horse across the River at this place.—At Tarboro^h. There was a Jury to inquire into the Right of the Lots N^o. 104 & 105 who found it to be in me for the purposes expressed in the Marriage Settlement² and not subject to the debts of R. B. [Richard Blackledge] consequently no Sale was made—I rented them to Doct. Leigh for six pounds per M^o. to be paid quarterly. The Contest was between Simpson & me and not between Speed and me for He did not offer to sell them. Early in the day I served him with a Copy of the inclosed, he only good humoredly said he was sorry to find my Title was so good. I offered to show him the Original to which he replied that he had a Copy from the Record. Numbers 115 & 116 on which the Ware Houses &c stand Speed put up for Sale himself[.] the Cryer [2] Simpson in Writing and verbally forbid the Sale saying he had no Title being made invalid in law by the usurious Interest taken from Blackledge both by Begnall and his Executors which he attempted to prove but did not because the Jury had not patience to stay to hear it—Speed did sell it & became him-

¹Not much is known of John Simpson. He seems to have been a fairly prosperous citizen of Pitt County. He was a landowner and a trustee of Pitt Academy. He seems to have maintained a fairly large establishment at home, since in the spring of 1788 he wrote his wife that Jacob Blount was to send her two barrels of hams. His financial worries indicated in William Blount's letter did not soon diminish. John Simpson to [Mrs. John] Simpson, May 20, 1788 (Ross Papers, Manuscript Department, Duke University Library, Durham, North Carolina); Pitt County Records, (North Carolina Department of Archives and History).

²These were lots which were given to Louisa Blount on her marriage to Richard Blackledge. See Indenture and Marriage Settlement of Louisa Blount, October 16, 1785, in the John Gray Blount Papers, below, p. 543.

self the purchaser at three hundred & Sixty odd pounds. There were only two bidders [bidders?] beside himself who were by my [*sic*] Bidders—So bad did his Title appear to all the Spectators that I do not believe that he could have got a real Bid for all four of the Lots for as much as fifty pounds.—

The inclosed will show you that the Writs for Usury for served too at the Instance of Ellison and one at the Instance of R. Blackledge. They were the Cause of much Distress to Robt Bignall and of great Humility and Mortification to Speed, both have applyed to me for my Friendship & Interposition in their favour[.] to Speed I said I would be at Washington tomorrow where he is to be on the Business [3] of seing and if possible of effecting a Compromise with Ellison without saying What I would do or that I would do even any thing for him but Hawkins is not yet come up and when he will is uncertain and I want to see him—I expect him hourly.—Speed is much alarmed I believe would agree to pay to Ellison the debt that may be due from Blackledge to Ellison to be clear and would agree to release the Lots N^o. 104- & 105 from his Claim &c—The Reason the Lots N^o. 115 & 116 were not sold on Simpson's Execution was because M. Hunt had previously levied a Judicial Attachment on them.

Having told you all this Business if Speed comes down you will know what part to act with both Ellison & himself and what to say of my absence.—Simpson has sold 250 Bushels Salt to Atkinson for 500 Bushels Corn and is to have from 60 to 80 Bushells from Poneray Easton at Tarbor^e he sold sold at 7/ and Molasses at 4/—[4]If you have used his order for 100 Bushels you ought to give him only 172 Bushels for that was the sum he that day sold at to Blackledge & Perkins and the Reason he got it from Atkinson was because Jacob told him he would give it.—

If Simpson duns you have temper good humour & firmness but why need I say this—Tell him the Train you have laid to pay him through Reading who is the only interested Person & if he is very pressing he must be told not to dun unless he does it legally but should be postponed as long as possible—If Hawkins comes tonight as I expect I will be with you tomorrow
your's &c

W^m BLOUNT

*Edward Hall to John Gray Blount*TARBOROUGH 12th Jan^y [17]88

Dear Sir

Forrester will call on you for some of the Salt I purchased from you, be pleased to deliver him as much as he thinks proper to receive, whose rect. shall be good ag^t. me, the remainder I will take the next time the boat goes down

I should be glad of ab^t. 20 or 25 bush^l large Salt, which please send if convenient

I am

Your most Ob^tServ

EDWARD HALL

Addressed: Mr. John Blount

Mercht

Washington

Pr. Mr. Forrester

[William Blount] to John Gray Blount

NEW BERN February 8th 1788

It is determined that Willie is to study Law with Mr. Sitgreaves³ as soon as he can get an office built and I have given Orders to Joseph Palmer to frame and build him one 24 by 16 which he has by this I suppose sawed and will begin immediately to frame it and will without delay bring it down—Will you send over the Nails for it in the Stage and order them to be delivered to John Sitgreaves in his Absence to his Brother Joseph. At first it was agreed between Sitgreaves and myself that this office should have been put on the Lot by the Court House but upon Consideration I have concluded it will be best for Sitgreaves & Willie to have it put near his own House.—I have supposed you would have no Objection to giving him the Scantling and Palmer's Works and the Nails, the Brick Work, Glass and Shingles he will procure and as the House is to be put on his own Lot I suppose will pay for them.—I believe Billy Blackledge⁴ is also to study with him.—The House or some

³Willie Blount studied law under Judge John Sitgreaves of New Bern.

⁴William Blackledge was the brother of Richard Blackledge. He went to Princeton with Willie Blount and later represented North Carolina in the United States Congress. His devotion to the Blounts is shown in his numerous letters to John Gray Blount.

other has become necessary for Sitgreaves to have for the Completion of the Business he has undertaken to close for T & T. O [Titus & Thomas Ogden] all the Papers, Books &c respecting which was yesterday delivered to him and removed to His House—You probably may not suppose [2] Willie is as well disposed of as he might be but when you consider that if things are not quite convenient to my father that he will do them by which I mean to infer that if he does not dispose of him thus that he will keep him at Home as he has done the rest.—Can you tell me what to do with my Ward Abner Nash⁵ for I never was more at a loss what to do with any thing than with him, Mrs. Nash declares She can Keep him no longer, no Merchant, Lawyer nor in short no decent Person here will take him on any Terms and my Wife is much opposed to his living with me, and as T. Ogden is to live with me in the future I have hardly room for him and if I had I have not the Colour of Business for him. I have hired out his Negroes for £147.10 per year untill he arrives at the Age of 21 years which will be on the 30th Nov^r. 1790. the Half of which I suppose will clothe him and the other Half I would willingly agree to give to any Person for his Board who would take him and keep him to any Business, he is certainly capable of none but ostensible Business would amuse him. From here I must take him and to some Business I must put him if it is even only ostensible for he is really incapable of any other and I shall direct him to come over to Washington by the Next Weekes Stage under the Opinion of his taking that Rout to get to [3] My House and so it must be unless you will take him to be a Merchant on the afore mentioned Terms or if you will keep him a few Weekes or Months and imploy him occasionally about any thing so as to show him he is a Boy you will much oblige me. This last I presume you may do without much Inconveniency as he may be generally engaged either in Business or Amusements out of the House and I am sure your Presence will sufficiently awe him when in it. Forgive this attempt to impose on you a thing that I Know not what to do with and that no Body else will have and let me Know your Opinion freely on the Subject by the first Conveyance to Greeneville.—As Jacob [Blount] comes up every Saturday he may be induced to take a Trip down with him

⁵Abner Nash made provision in his will for his son to become a ward of William Blount. A copy of the will is in the Frank Nash Papers, 1775-1797 (North Carolina Department of Archives and History), December 12, 1786.

to see the factory Mills⁶ &c which will employ him for a Weeke at least and will afford me some more Time to look round to dispose of him.—Keep this Letter.—I really believe he is better than his Character for no Person could behave better than he did while with me a Week at Greeneville.—

Addressed: Mr. John Gray Blount

John Gray Blount to George Nicolson
[Copy]*

[WASHINGTON], February 18, 1788

D Sir

On M Hugh Munros arrival I was prevented from going to Tarb^o. to see M Gilchrist by an appointment I had to meet a Gentⁿ from Newbern on the following Saturday on which day I rec^d. a Letter from Tho^s. Blount in which is the following paragraph "Mr Skipwiths sudden departure for France will make it dangerous for you to remit to him. Mr. Warringtons Attachment is yet valid; a circumstance I knew not at the time of writing you last of course if your debt is not paid the payment must be made here, or a legal discharge cannot be obtained"

The receipt of this Letter induced me to take Council how far we should be again liable for the money attached in our hands if now paid to you And am assured that We cannot be legally discharge[d] except by paying the money to the Attachments levied in our hands before payment to you

Am therefore constrained to act very contrary to my feelings and interest. I hourly expect my Brother from England his arrival may explain matters [2] and should I find we can with security to ourselves pay you any part or the whole of our Debt no time or pains shall be lost to accomplish it When you were with me, you inform'd me Mr. Warringtons Attachment was taken off, in consequence of which I gave you assurances of payment in all this m^t. [mentioned] to a considerable amount with a full determination so to do. I have repeatedly apply'd to Cap^t. Eastwood for payment and as often re[c]^d. for answer that he must first see all the Acct^s. & on Mr Hughes arrival I

*This was either a copy or a letter which Blount decided not to mail.

⁶The property of Josiah Collins and his son, Josiah, Jr., at Edenton. Jacob Blount, who married Nancy, the only daughter of Collins, lived at Edenton and worked with his father-in-law.

show'd them to him but he still wants a sight of others which he has wrote you for.

Mr. Waddles Bill I sent by a Gentⁿ. going to Wilmington & have not yet rec^d. an answer. and I have not seen Dot^r. Leigh since you left this but now send a duning note to him by Mr. Munro

I am with much esteem

Your most Obed^t.

Humbl Sev^t

JGB

Ezekiel Cossa⁷ to John Gray Blount

NEW. YORK feb. 19th. 88—

Sir

I am in the jale by that ungenros man begelo [*sic*] where I expect to remain without my generous owner get. me out and having No Substance to report Nature Kept the Money which if get Clear will Satisfy you to your own Desire in

I Sold Stave thure for Sevnty Dollars

Very humble

EZEKEIL COSSA

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r.

Washington

N^o. Carolina

George Denisen⁸ to John Gray Blount

DUBLIN ye 23rd Feb^y 1788

Mr Blount Sir

I make bold to Desire you would Take a Bill from M^{rs} Denisen and Calect the Money for the Saim[.] the Bill is on Jas Eston who Lives Near Martenborow and Let him have the Money to Subsist on Till My Return—if he will not answer the Bill Let him Protest it—

⁷Cossa was a ship captain. He was probably a member of the Cossa family which lived at Washington, North Carolina. Abner Neale considered Cossa a very poor commander. See Abner Neale to Jehn Gray Blount, St. Croix, January 1, 1789, below, p. 449.

⁸Denisen seems to have been in Europe on his own affairs. Thomas Blount had urged John Gray to send him as a witness in the Hill legacy case.

I Shall Not git My Self Clear till Sum Time in Apriel or the Beginning of May The Law Sieut is over the 6th of this Month and was Determinated in favour of the Brig Elizabeth

The Caws [cause] of My Detention is for want of Money to Refit the S^d Brig or Credit as No Man will Take Botomme and the Comisions of the Revenue will not alow Me to Sell for the purpose of Refiting as Practised in all other Nations—But I am in hopes the underriters will Refit hir—but if Not I Shall abandon hir and Let them Do as they Pleas with hir and am with Respect your very humble Servant

G DENISEN

To John Gray Blount Esqr

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr.

Mercht.

Washington

Captⁿ Feleny's

John Evans to John Gray Blount

PHILAD^a. Feb^y. 26. 1788

Respected Fr^d.

John Blunt

As it is now the Season to purchass Otter Skins I would wish the proceeds of my advinture remitted me in them if its Sold which I expect probable & if Otters is not to be had please to remitt me in good Tobacco & as I have a large Quantity of hatts on hand if it meets thy approbation would send some soon thy Wellwisher

JOHN EVANS

John G Blunt esqr

Washington

Addressed: John G Blunt esqr.

Mercht.

Washington

North Carolina

Capt^t. Kirby

George Nicolson⁹ to John Gray Blount

RICHMOND 28th Feb^y 1788

Mr. J. G. Blount

Sir

Agreeable to your memo. I have made the necessary enquiry relative to the Sale of Plank—but I find the Comissioners have compleated all their contracts for Plank & Skantling for the Public building—I have also made enquiry for a freight for Mr. Simpsons Ship was she now here she coud readily be loaded for London or indeed coud She arrive any time between this & the 1st April a Load coud be immediately got for her at £6 Ton—

The price of Corn continues here at 15/—& I am induced to believe from the quantitys which will come round from Carolina that the price will not exceed that I woud not therefore advise your purchasing at a higher price [2] [than] that what we talked of say 10/—indeed I would much rather you shu'd send round Tob°. as the Sale for that article is always steady & certain for Cash or good Bills[.] Rum now is in demand here & a Qt^y cou'd be sent here 'twoud readily command 3/9—I beg you will send round all the Tob° you can possibly get in course of next month without waiting to make up the full Qt^y you mention as I want much to make some remittance of value to Mr Skipwith in whose hands just now a little money woud tell well, I need not impress this matter farther upon you—as I imagine you will hear from Brother before this reaches you—The Laws I shall send you next Week—together with some of Eastwoods papers—I am with great respect

Your. mo: ob Ser

GEO: NICOLSON

PS. please note in your next the bal^s due F S & C°. [Fulwar Skipwith p Co.]

Addressed: Mr. John G Blount

Merchant

Washington

North Carolina

⁹A member of a mercantile firm (Pennock, Nicolson, & Skipwith) of Richmond, Virginia.

¹⁰John Gray Blount and Nicolson were speculating in corn.

*Thomas Blount to [John Gray Blount]*LONDON March 3^d. 1788

Dear Sirs,

Since writing you from Havre de Grace on the 11th Sep^r. 87. I have continually looked forward to the present time as the certain period of my departure from Europe; But your very long Silence (having heard nothing from you since the 4th June) has conspired with the unexpected Elopement & other strange Conduct of Mr. Skipwith to place me in a Situation that obliges me to extend the view at least a Month or two farther—nor am I by any means certain that I shall be able to get away then—for in the first place I am destitute of Money, & were it ever so plenty with me I should feel extreme reluctance to leaving your accot^t. with Fulwar Skipwith & C^o. in its present unsettled State; because I conceive that in the present situation of their affairs [2] a Settlement cannot be properly, or safely made without me—however, your instructions, on that head, which I expect to receive in the course of this month or the next, in answer to my Letter P the Decem^r. Packet, shall be decisive—

I have a Letter from Mr. Skipwith dated at Paris the 14th Jan^y. last wherein he says he shall not be able to return to this Country for some years, if ever—& that, therefore, he shall proceed immediately to Virginia—whence I conclude he will endeavour to obtain payment from you as soon as he arrives there—and, as Warringtons attachment (in consequence of his not having joined in the Letter of Licence) remains yet in full force against you for £550 Sterling, or such part thereof as you had in hand at the time of receiving it, I think it my duty to warn you once more against paying any thing either to Skipwith or his Agent—[3] so critical is the predicament in which you stand that I can think of but one safe Mode of procedure—that is, to remit the full balance here in Money addressed to William Murdock, N^o. 8 Crutched friars, with instructions how to appropriate it in case I should not be here when it arrives—In expectation that you may have already adopted this mode, or some one similar to it, I shall certainly wait here till June, & if I do not hear from you by that time, I will *absolutely* depart, if I am obliged to rob on the high road for Money to pay my Passage—provided you don't direct me to stay longer—in that case you may rely on my compliance—

Mr. Crawford
 Mr. Spangill
 Attorney
 Mr. Blount.

Boiled Ham	Potatoes	Turnips	Boiled Chicken	Richardson	Partridge	Oysters	Boiled Beef	Rice & Turkey
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Mr. Dingleton
 Capt. Jones
 Side Board.

Mr. Blackledge
 Genl. Searles
 Mr. Banks
 Mr. Simpson

Mr. Dingleton

Dinner Table in New Bern, North Carolina
 From William Attmore's Diary in the R. B. Huske Papers, Southern Historical Collection,
 the Library of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Table Cards.

Mr. Amott. Mr. Carthy - Mr. W. Thompson. Gen. Canace.

Miss Sally Silgreave.

Boiled Ham
Boiled Chicken

Boiled Codfish
& peeled Eggs
wrapped in linen
till wanted.

Roast Turkey

Roast Venison

Mr. Silgreave.

Colonel Spright. Attmore. Colonel Blount.

Dinner Table in New Bern, North Carolina
From William Attmore's Diary in the R. B. Huske Papers, Southern Historical Collection,
the Library of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

I am much surprized at not hearing from you on the Subject of Mrs. Hills business. If the evidence required cannot be obtained say so—that the Suit may be withdrawn to prevent an increase of expence—if it can, send it forward immediately—for [4] Delays are dangerous—this I commit to the care of Mr. Cooper who comes passenger in the Potomack Planter bound for George Town in Maryland—He takes his Wife with him & leaves his Children in Ireland—His Situation here has been deplorable beyond description & from what I have heard I am fearful it will not be much better at home—on this pray be silent, —to him let me refer you for news of every kind—I should have no great objection to the Consulship for Bristol, provided there was a competent Salary annexed to it—Pray send me £100—if it takes every thing I'm worth in the world to raise it—& as soon as possible you may direct it either to Murdock or Contee—but I will say the first—With Compliments where due

I am as ever

Yours

THO. BLOUNT

A[rnoldus] Vanderhorst to John Gray Blount

CHAS. TON 4 March 1788—

Dear Sir

By Captⁿ. Allen I was favoured with yours of the 5th. Ulto, since which I rec^d. Col^o. W^m. Blounts letter, on the same subject, emediately on the rec^t. of yours, I wrote Mr. Brailsford & enclosed him a Copy of the bill of sale of your Negro, and informed him there could be [no] doubt of the Negro being your property, and if h[e] choose to purchase he might keep the Negro [by] emidiately ordering me payment of Two hundred & f[if]ty silver dollars /which Captⁿ. Allen said was your pri[ce/] if not desired he would forward the Negro to me [wh]en the customary charges would be paid, but the [dis]tance being upwards of 80 Miles & no direct comm[un]ication, I have received no answer, as soon as I do will inform you thereof & should he refuse to deliver the Negro, it will be necessary for you to prove your property & send a power for recovery but from what I know of Mr. Brailsford expect he will deliver the Negro or pay

for him, without further trouble. Will you be so good as to inform Col^o. Blount I have not been able to get a shilling [2] from Major Hazzard, in his acco^t. & see no prospect of doing it unless compelled thereto by Law.—

You will be pleas'd to present my best respects to your worthy father & Brother William & their familys. I am with respect & esteem

Dr. Sir your Most humble Servant

A VANDERHORST

Addressed: Mr. John Gray Blount

Merchant

Washington

favoured by Capⁿ. Allen

Sherwood Haywood¹¹ to John Gray Blount

TARBO 7 March 1788

Sir

A few days previous to your Brother Tom's departure from Tarboro' he made application to me for hard Money for which he said he was then much distressed; I chanc'd to have some by me and lent it to him, for which he gave me a Note signed for you and himself; I have never yet applied for payment because I have not wanted it very much until now, at least I have been able to make out without it; absolute necessity now drives me to request you will endeavour to take up this Note.—I lent it to him from mere friendship and therefore wish no Interest;—the amount of the Note is Thirty five pounds 12/ — payable in Gold or Silver and which alone will answer my purpose. It [2] It is from necessity alone that I am urged to this application, on that principle you will excuse it—If you can make payment conveniently by the middle of April it will do.—

I am Sir, yours respectfully.

S. HAYWOOD

John G. Blount Esqr.

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr.

Washington

¹¹A brother of John Haywood, the state treasurer. Sherwood Haywood had some distinction on his own account. He had been made a lieutenant colonel; assistant clerk and clerk of the state senate; and justice of the peace in Edgecombe County. *Colonial Records of North Carolina*, X, 205; *State Records of North Carolina*, XVIII, 3, 324; XXIII, 968, 993.

James Aiken to John Gray & Thomas Blount

[PHILADELPHIA March — 1788]

Mess^{rs} Jn^o G & T Blounts

Gentlemen/

I have Shiped on board the Sloop Washington Capt. Kirbey a Negro Boy Named David who is a Smart Active fellow part of his time Employed as waiter which he is very Expert in & Lukewise [likewise] Understands farming well[.] I was Oblidged to allow for the boy in part of an old Debt £ 90 which the owner Said he would not have taken if he had not been Indebted—My owing Mess^{rs}. Stuart & Barr & money not to be had here I am under the Necessity of Sending him at all events the Neat proceed of Sales before I lost Considerabley on [it] but hope a more favourable Acc^t. of the Sale of the Boy—Mr. Barr [expects?] to be with you[.] please pay the Am^t. of what you may [s]ell him for after Expences Deducted to him Vessell waites—

I am Gentlemen with

Esteem Yours &^c

JAMES AIKEN

March 1788

I have given you a Bill of Sale at £ 120 Inclosed—

Addressed: Mes^{sr}. J. G. & T Blounts

Merch^{ts}-

Washington

N^o. Carolina

Per Sloop Washington

Capt Kirby

William Tatham¹² to John Gray Blount

[FAYETTEVILLE, March 8, 1788]

Mr. J. G. Blount

Dr Sir./

The arrival of my Brother who came to me a few days ago gives me great hopes from my affairs in Europe, and determines me to go immediately to England, where I find my personall presence will be absolutely necessary as speedily as possible—

¹²This was probably William Tatham from Robeson County. He was a representative to the assembly from Robeson in 1778. The year following he was made a lieutenant colonel. He was named as one of the founding commissioners for the town of Lumberton in Robeson County. *State Records of North Carolina*, XX, 143, 230, 428, 429; XXIV, 992.

The Ship Irish Volunteer sails in a few days from Wilmington to Liverpool and I shall endeavour to encounter every difficulty to gain a passage in Her, which will I hope leave it in my power to be in Time for the Hillsberough Convention or the Assembly at Fayetteville at farthest if I find affairs in Europe in proper train, shou'd I be obliged to continue there any time shall do myself the honor to open a regular correspondence. [2] It is probable that I shall be gone in the Volunteer before (my express) the bearer returns in which case my Brother will attend to my Business and receive my Letters—I have however for fear of disappointments taken the liberty to accept Mr. Blounts Friendly offer "*to endorse my Bills*" and have for that purpose inclosed the Sum of Two hundred and Fifty Pounds Sterling in Five setts of Fifty Pounds each, to use in case of emergency which will put me independant of my prospects here and leave me a sufficiency to answer the purposes of the Voyage—Mr. Blount will enclose theese, and the powers and Grants he spoke of to care of Mr. Wm B. Grove of Fayetteville with whom I shall leave instructions, shou'd I depart—it will not be necessary to inform the Bearer Mr. Folsom of the Contents—only give a charge to be carefull—

Shou'd I be disappointed of a passage in the Volunteer information from Mr. Blount of any prospect He can carve out may be serviceable to me as my Rout may be changed on missing the present chance—

[3] A Mr. Courey [*sic*] who came from the Northward with my Brother and is esteem'd by him is perhaps in Tarberough or Washington on his way hither, He is a House joiner of the best kind, My Brother is under obligations to this young Man, shou'd any of Mr. Blounts Services to him be needfull it will confer an additional obligation on one who will not neglect in gratitude for an unremitted and very disinterested Freindship to consider himself

Mr. Blounts obliged
and very H Servt.

WM TATHAM

Fayetteville 8th. March 1788.

Addressed: John Blount Esqr.

Merchant

Tarborrough or Washington

P Mr. Folsom

Express

Henry William Harrington¹³ to John Gray Blount

PEEDEE 10 March 1788.

Dear Sir

I will be obliged to You to forward the enclosed Letter to Samuel Smyth Esqr of Swifts Creek near to Newbern—I believe I am always to be under Obligation to the Blount Family, but then I am so far happy that from no Family on earth would I rather receive Favors than from Them;—My warmest my most grateful acknowledgements are due to my best Friend your Brother *Reading*—*He*, when the popular current Set Strong against me in the last Assembly, declared aloud that He would Vote for my being Brigadier of Fayette District if He Stood alone, His generous efforts in my behalf gave me the Suffrages of many of the worthy but Col^o Clinton caused it by dent of numbers, please Express my most respectful Compliments to the generous Major and assure Him from me that I Shall ever entertain the most grateful Sense of his goodness and particularly to me, and that I Shall think my Self happy to have it in my power to render Him or any of his connections Service.—

With very particular Regard

I am,

My dear Sir

Your most humble

and most obed^t Ser^t

Hen^y. W^m. Harrington

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr.

Washington

Favor^d by Captain E^d Allen

Charles Gerrard to John Gray Blount

TARBOROUGH March 15th. 1788

Sir

You'll receive by Baldwin Six hh^{ds}. Tob^o. 4 of them Crop hhd^s. the other two under; the hh^d. marked thus # on the head is very inferior to them inspected.—I've paid Cap^t. Allen agreeable to

¹³Colonel Henry William Harrington was very active in the Revolution. His family lived "in affluence" in South Carolina, but unfortunately they were victims of a "lawless set of men" who deprived them of some of their possessions and Harrington moved then into North Carolina. He was for some time a representative in the state legislature. *State Records of North Carolina* XV, vi; XVII, 391; XX, 27, 416.

your order, but have not made an entry of it; as I think you've made a mistake in directing me in the order to Charge that Sum to Tarb^o. Store, instead of the Washington Store; however would be glad to know by first opportunity whether to Charge as directed to Tarb^o. Store.—

I wish you Could procure potatoes to plant these two Lots in front of the Store, with directions how, and at what time to plant them.—

Not any Tob^o. to be had without giveing nearly all money a 52/6 & 53/—the Town Swarming with Yankeys, N^w. England rum, and molasses which Seems to Sweep all before them.

Baldwin will bring 5 3/4 y^{ds}. pernelloes for M^{rs}. Blount which I charge to yourself a 14/-

If potatoes cannot be had, and Clover Seed Can, I think twould be well worth Sowing these Lotts with it, as they lie low, perhaps 'twould answer for that better than anything else.—

I am Sir

Y^r. Ob^t. Humble Servant

CHARLES GERRARD

Addressed: J. G. Blount Esqr.

Merch^t.

Washington

George Nicolson to John Gray & Thomas Blount

RICHMOND 25th March 1788.

Mess^{rs}. J. G. & Tho^s. Blount

Gent^l.

I did myself the pleasure of writing you the 28th Ult^o. since when I have not heard from you—

The chief purport of this is to request you will forward on a remittance to me as soon as possible. & to prevent your taking any measures correspondent with Mr S—[Skipwith's] request through brother T—[Thomas] from London[.] I am sorry to inform you that he has been under the necessity of leaving London therefore any remittances there might be attended with inconveniences—I requested in my last that you wou'd not meddle with Corn I am still of the same opinion as the quantity now at & coming to markett will make it a drug—I fear that if Mr Simpsons Ship [2] does not come round soon she will be too

late as the Spring Ships are hourly expected—let your remittance be as large in Tob^o as you possibly can as 'tis an article which will always command the Cash—I am respectfully

Your mo ob Ser

GEO: NICOLSON

Addressed: J. G. & T. Blount
Merchants
Washington
North Carolina

Benjamin Harrison, Jr., to John Gray & Thomas Blount

RICHMOND 30th. March 1788

Mess^s. Jn^o. G. & Tho^s. Blount
Gent.

Your favor of the 28th. Nov^r. last, never reached my hands, till the 1st. Inst., I suppose that the long passage of it arose from your directing to me at Petersburg instead of this place—From the contents of it, I had hopes that I should have heard from you before this day, with the money for your acceptance of Skipwith & Co^s. Bill on you, & I am very sorry that I am disappointed¹⁴— I beg the favor of you now to inform me, what I have to expect from you, as it is exceeding inconvenient for me to lie out of the money. I see no prospect of getting it out of the drawers or indorser.—Mr. Nicolson indeed tells me, that you are to send some Tobacco & Rum to Norfolk for the purpose of taking up the Bill, I wish I could hear of the business being executed, & into whose hands these articles are to come—Below you have a State[ment] of the Bill according to the present Exchange & laws of this Country, to which I have added my expences of Sending to you & I suppose you will think it right that you Should pay them—I am Gent.

1787 May 27.—Bill for	£ 306.1.0	Stg.
Exchange 40 Pct	122.8.5	

428.9.5

¹⁴The Blounts were frequently hard pressed for ready money. The extensiveness of their business and their ambition to increase their property often left them quite depleted of cash. Part of their difficulty may be attributed to the inadequate supply of money in circulation. See James Aiken to John Gray & Thomas Blount [Philadelphia, March, 1788], above, p. 379.

Int. from the date till paid @ 5 P Ct ..
 Expences of a Messenger 10.1.0

 70

[2]

RICHMOND 26th Aug^t 1788Mess^s J G & Tho^s BlountGentⁿ

Annexed you have Copy of my last to you of the 30th of March, to which I have never received any reply of any sort or kind, since it was wrote, notwithstanding your promises in your Letter of the 28th Novbr last, unless indeed some vain expectations that M^r Geo: Nickolson has from time to time been holding up to me, can be called a reply, this Gentⁿ tells me himself that *he* has received remittances but that they were for *himself* & that mine are to come soon; will you Gentⁿ be so obliging as to give me an explicit reply to this Letter & believe me to be

Your very Obed^t Se^t

BENJ HARRISON JR

Addressed: Mess^{rs}. J G & Tho^s BlountMercht^s

Washington

N Carolina

Richard Lake to John Gray Blount
KINGSTON JAMAICA April 1st. 1788.—

J. G. Blount Esqr.

D. Sir

I have the pleasure of your. favor of 11th. Feby. last—in closing a Letter from H. P. Haines w^c. is perfectly Satisfactory & conclusive

I have not rec^d. one Shilling yet from the Obligation of Cockl-wine & Evans, altho' repeated applications have been made for the payment since it became due, the latter gentleman is in distress. & obscurity, but I consider it only temporary—the former, is an Att^y. at Law in great Business—& a Man of extensive Landed property, but—Known to be dilatory in pecunary matters. these considerations induced me to wish, that the Cash (I concluded from Jennings & Woddrops Letter to their Correspondent here, was in their Hands belonging to me) Shou'd be

transferred to you, on account of the Security I hold here, being very confident of its—[2] validity; but from the letter I rec^d. from those gentⁿ. Nearly about the time of yours of 11th. Febr^y., I find I am disappointed & from the Contents of it, for w^c. I beg leave. to refer you to the Copy here inclosed, I am. lead to understand, that Bills of Exchange on London, are much easier to be procured & in more ready Circulation than Specia, & that if I had. given directions for a Bill to have been remitted to my Correspondent in England, it wou^d have immediately been purchased at a loss only of 15 PC^t.—closing with these gentlemen Now "*on their Word*"—I have by this Opportunity wrote to them, "to forward to my Correspondents in Liverpoole a good Bill of — Exchange for the full Amo. of w^c. Shoolbread & Moodys. Acceptance may Neat in Brittish Sterling, and to forward me immediately an Acco. thereof, that I may Credit the Indorser here, of said Bill for wh^h. I may *really receive*, having become possessed of [3] Said Bill in *these Terms Solely*," w^c. I thought. I. had fully explained both to you, & the House of Jennings & Woddrop—The first Moment I am in Cash—for the whole or any part of your Demand here, I shall forward it in Dollars, either to you in Washington, or to your Correspondents Mess^r. Stewart & Barr Merch^s. Philadelphia, agreable to your late Instructions—I am.

With unfeigned esteem

Dr. Sir

Y^r Mo: obed. hble Serv^t.

R^d. LAKE

Washington, N^o. Carolina

Robert Stewart to John Gray Blount

N YORK 4th April 1788

Dear Sir,

I had the pleasure of writing you 12th February requesting you would take the trouble of receiving from Aldridge Ellisan £6.17.10½ our Cur^y being Cash expended for the Sloop Lucretia's outfits

As there is a prospect that Tobacco will be some better here shortly must request of you to take the first opportunity of forwarding my small parcel here or to Phil^a & that the quality of it be more attended to than the price[.] well flavoured Tobacco

of a yellow Colour is at present most in demand.

I am happy you did not ship any Tobacco to France last Fall the Markets there having proved very bad for a good while past

Please to inform me what advance Irish [2] Linens worth here 2/- to 4/- a Yard would be likely to bring with you & the probability of a ready Market for them Tar 9/- Turpentine 11/- Pitch at present 16/- Good Otter Skins 20/- a 24/- York Rum 2/7 Muscovado Sugar 52 a 64 Melasses 1/11^d Coffee 16^d Lump Sugar 12½^d Loaf ditto 14^d

I am very respectfully Dear Sir

Your Obed^t Hum Serv^t

ROBERT STEWART

J. G. Blount Esq^r

Washington

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r.

Washington

N: C:

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

EDENTON 9th April 1788

Dear Sir

Yours of 3rd Inst came to hand by this days Post. I was in Cambden County on the friday of their Election, but shall as instructed send an Express to J. Herring who is but just recovering from an illness that threatened his Life.

By this days Northern Post I rec^d. a Letter from Doct. Romaine who states the price Current of produce thus Tar 9/ Turpentine 10/ Rozin 14/ Pitch 15/ Tobacco 4^d a 4½^d final Settlements 2/6 a 2/9. at Such Prices I presume that Silver will cost at least two for one. Col. Ashe has resigned not having as he says any Cash and The Treasury empty. The Gov^r. and council who met while I was at Washington, have appointed Jn^o Swan¹⁵ to Serve the remainder of the Year in his Stead and Mr Swan is trying hard to raise mony from his own funds to be able to go on with me. The Result is uncertain, I have not been able to promise him any Help in case of Emergency for 35 or 36 £ is the amount of the Specie I have hitherto been able to command. I am promised by an acquaintance a credit or loan of 100 Dlr

¹⁵This was John Swann of Pasquotank. There was also a John Swann in the Cape Fear area. *State Records of North Carolina*, XXIII, 200, 229; Moore, *History of North Carolina*, I, 379-380n.

if I shall find it necessary, which I shall try *not to find*. if I can do otherwise. The Lake Company¹⁶ owe me 2 Hhds of Tobacco which they are presently, when they get it, to forward to Philad^a. I set this down a[t] 70 to 80 Dls, and if there is a good Wheat Season I am in Hopes that a Remittance of Wheat may prove to better Account than in Naval Stores. [2] Doctr [Nicholas] Romayn writes, for your particular Information that "The "Cargo which Capt Harris brought from Washington was delivered to Pet. Schermerhorn¹⁷ and consisted of 349 Brls Tar. "6 Brls Turpentine and 1^m. 7^h Barrel staves" I have made the Marks as he does & suppose he means 1 Thous: 7 Hhd Brl Staves. This Information he says he hopes will answer a Purpose to which you had referred in Some of your Letters & enable you to Settle some Account which stood open.

I do not learn that any of the Members chosen in our District are Supposed to be antifederal except one in Gates and two in Hartford one of whom is the Beau Nephew of Gen^l Person.¹⁸ The Whirligig man¹⁹ it Seems had not more than 10 or 12 Votes. This does Some Honour to the County even though they are not federal. We have no Returns from Currituck. In Paper Mony they used not to be guided, by motives apparently honest. I do not find the Copy of the Letter in my Letter Book which I wrote you respecting the purchase of Certificates but find a Memorandum in a Small Book that on Sep. 1784 the day of the month not noted, I wrote J. G. Blount to buy me Certificates if to be had a 5 for 1. You probably have that Letter but you will be so good as not buy any more Certificates at any Price for I expect they will soon be sold at half nothing which is some thing less than Nothing if Ideas are correctly expressed in our Language.

With this you will receive Some red Bark of which I hope you have no use at present. I am

Dr Sir Y^{rs}

HU WILLIAMSON

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r

¹⁶This was a local company. It does not refer to the Lake brothers of England.

¹⁷The Blounts carried on trade with Peter Schermerhorn, a merchant of New York.

¹⁸Thomas Person was an influential political leader of North Carolina. He was a representative from Granville County in the assembly of the state and was a member of the *west* faction which was in strong opposition to the *east* (Albemarle, Tar and Neuse River) group. The Blounts were subjects of his attacks on numerous occasions. John W. Moore, the historian, says of him: "He was not eloquent, learned or polished in his demeanor, but in brave adhesion to principle, his large wealth and great popular ascendancy in his own portion of the province, he perhaps carried as much real weight to the Whig cause as any man in the Congress." *History of North Carolina*, I, 169. Ashe, *Biographical History*, VII, 380-398.

¹⁹William Cumming was chosen to represent the town of Edenton and Stephen Cabarrus and Lemuel Causy the county (Chowan). No explanation of the "Whirligig man" has been found.

Samuel Johnston²⁰ to John Gray Blount

HAYES April 12th. 1788.

Dear Sir

I was sometime ago applied to by the Consul of France, respecting a Debt due from this State to the Government of Martinique and being unacquainted with the particulars of that transaction I applied to the late Governor Mr. Caswell for information. I have lately received his answer referring me to you as a person qualified to give me the Fullest information on that Subject. I Shall therefore consider myself under the highest obligations to you for a full State of all the Facts, within your knowledge. which you may judge necessary to enable me to give a Satisfactory answer to the Consul.

I have lately had an Express From Holston giving an account of Some very dangerous riots, in which Some blood has been Spilt and two men Killed by the Rioters under the command of Sevier. I hope the Assembly at their next meeting will either use means effectually to enforce the execution of our Laws in that Country or leave them to govern themselves²¹ to leave them to continue in their present unsettled State may in time be attended with very ill consequences, and have a very bad influence on the Conduct of the Citizens in other parts of the State—I am with great respect & esteem

Dear Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

SAM^l JOHNSTON

John Gray Blount Esquire

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Washington

William McDaniel²² to John Gray Blount

SLOOPE SALLY 24th. April 1788—

I Received from Mr- Benga- Garrotts 2.380 Bb^s. Staves which I think good then [went] down [to] Mag^r Tho^s. Smiths whear I found the Tar in very bad order[.] it took me two days to git it Coopered & on Board[. I then] Beat down to Mr. Williams

²⁰See above, p. 350, n. 73 (1787).

²¹The people of the State of Franklin, led by John Sevier.

²²William McDaniel was the captain of one of the Blounts' vessels, the sloop *Sally*.

this morning I got two flatt loads on Board this fore noon, the wind is so fresh I Cant git the Remander off untill it lulls—Mr. Williams has 91 bbs from Mag^r. Smiths 47 bb^s., so with the 16 from Town I Shall have 154 bb^s. Tar and Shall be deep a nough²³—

from Sr. Yours

W^m M^c DANIEL

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r

Merch^t.

Washington

Charles Gilchrist to John Gray Blount

[PHILADELPHIA, April 26, 1788]

Sir

Some time ago I troubled my Friend Mr Mackey when he visited your town to settle An Account of £28.2.1 exclusive of Interest Your Brother Mr Reding Blunt Contracted in Philadelphia Octor 27. 1784²⁴ on his Return was Informed that you Would see it Paid in the Last fall or this Spring as I have not Rec^d. it & near four Years Standing must beg your Attention & forward it by the Return of Capt Kirby who Carry's this

In mean time do Rem'

Your Hum Ser^t &c

Ch^s Gilchrist

Debt—28.2.1

3 Years Interest

at 6 PrC^t—5.0.0

33.2.1

Philad^a April 26, 1788

Addressed: Mr. John Gray Blunt

Merch^t.

Washington

N^o Carolina

Honour^d by Cap^t Kirby

²³He was collecting naval stores from the various producers to make a load for the *Sally*. Containers were often in need of repair. Barrels or casks were coopered before being loaded on the seagoing vessel, or if a long voyage were in prospect the coopering might be done en route.

²⁴Reading Blount had been in Philadelphia about the time mentioned attending the meeting of the Society of the Cincinnati. *American Historical Magazine*, III (1898), 193.

*Charles Gerrard to John G. Blount*TARBOROUGH April 30th. 1788

Sir

Mrs. Harvey will bring the hard money, as 'twill not answer to purchase tob°. here, So well as if exchanged for paper; as most people want money for the discharge of debts in this State, or to pay Tax.—I wish you'd ask Mr. Greemer if he's any Cotton Seed for Sale, and let me know by Augustus; and if he has none [some?], forward them at Washington immediately.—We've 5 Hh^{ds}. Rum on hand, but I think we had better get up a large quantity of Salt before the River gets low, that we may not be Caught in the Same Situation we was last fall.²⁵—I've had Some thought of keeping the woollens open, and frequently brush and Sun them, as the Store will appear quite empty, when they're packed up; but you'll please let me know by Augustus, whether you approve of the plan or not.

I am Sir

Y^r. Ob^t. Humble Servant

CHARLES GERRARD

Addressed: J. G. Blount E[sqr.]
Greens[boro]

*Daniel Wardrop to John Gray Blount*PETERSBURG May 3^d. 1788

Sir

Since I had a personal interview with you at Washington. I have not done myself the pleasure of addressing you.

I take the liberty of requesting your attention, in recovering my proportion of the Mortgage granted to you. Mess^{rs}. Hatridge & Ritchie & Myself by Reilly to pay our respective debts.—I have had some letters from Mr Reilly on this subject wherein he expresses a desire to pay his debts.

But not having heard from him lately and the time for the redemption of the Mortgage being nearly expired and not being able to be present myself. I hereby empower you to act for me in this business

²⁵The Tar River was navigable for flats and small vessels as far up as Bensboro except when very low or when frozen over. Each condition sometimes occurred.

As this debt was originally contracted in Spanish Mill'd Dollars I have wrote Reilly. that as an honest Man he ought to pay this debt in Specie. The amt. was originaly 857 dlrs [2] he has hitherto evaded this point. you will however do your endeavour to get it Settled in this manner—but if Reilly seems averse to it—I do not think in my situation I can compell him.—whatever you receive you will inform me in course I shall then Mention to you in what manner I chuse to have it disposed—

I trust you will for give the trouble I give you in this affair. I Shall be happy at all times to be of any service to you here.—
& am

with Esteem
Sirs

Your Mo. Ob. Serv^t.
DANIEL WARDROP

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r
Washington
No: Carolina

Abishai C. Thomas²⁶ to John Gray Blount

HILLSBOROUGH 4th May 1788

Dear Sir

I arrivd here on the 1st. Mr. Winder had left the place the 27th Ult^o. without ever receiving my Answers to his proposals, however on the assurances of Some of my friends here, he had no doubt but I would come, and left the business so arranged that I can fall into the line without difficulty—Tomorrow morning I commence, and a tremendous Jobb it is to commence on, but as there are few amusements to divert my attention from business, I enter upon it with alacrity and trust I shall continue at it with that industry which is necessary as well to have the

²⁶Abishai Thomas lived with John Gray Blount when he was a young man. He was sometimes sent to Tarboro to manage the store there when Thomas Blount was away. He served in the North Carolina quartermaster brigade during the Revolution. He was a member of the assembly in 1787 and was named agent for North Carolina to settle the war claims of the state with the United States in 1788. He was chief clerk in the Navy Department under Benjamin Stewart. He probably owed his first position to the influence of the Blounts. While acting in their service he also took care of much of the mercantile business of John Gray and Thomas Blount on a commission basis. Thomas's weakness for gambling probably kept him from attaining the eminence which his exceptional abilities would have made possible. H. M. Wagstaff, *The Papers of John Steele* (Raleigh: North Carolina Historical Commission, 1924), I, 75, 205n; A. C. Thomas to John Gray Blount, July 6, 1793, John Gray Blount Papers; *State Records of North Carolina*, XIV, 438; XX, 452; XXI, 538.

business Completed in due time, as to reestablish my Fame but of this no more, I know you will want Faith which nothing but my actions can inspire you with therefore they must Speak for me and I am not without flattering hopes that they will Succeed

I find Board here to be 20/ P Week without any thing to drink, a Small quantity of which may not be amiss, and to purchase it here either in Tavern or Store would be more than my pay will [2] will allow; therefore am to request the favour of you to grant me a Small Supply, Say 10 or 15 Gallons of your best Tobago, or Jamaica if to be Spar'd, to be put in a new Kegg burn'd within or otherwise prepar'd as you may think best, Cox²⁷ will take the trouble to put it up and forward it to Tarborough from whence I can get it in good time—I Shall send the Horse down in all this Week, please make My best Compliments to M^{rs}. Blount, & believe me to be with esteem & respect

Dr Sir

Y^r. very ob^t Ser^t

AB. THOMAS

Addressed: Mr. John Gray Blount

Merchant

Washington

Hon'd by Mr. Schenck

William McKenzie to John Gray Blount

SKUWAHKET²⁸ 21st May 1788

Dear Sir/

About four or five Weeks ago a Frenchman who assumed the Character of a Doctor borrowed from me a Mare to ride as far as Washington & promised to send her back in a few Days Since which Time I have heard nothing from him She is a sorrel about 14½ hands high with large flopt Ears & in this place would be thought very ugly, should such a Man be still about

²⁷Cox Coart was one of the Blounts' apprentices. These young men were learning navigation as well as the shipping business. When they were thought proficient enough they were given trial commands of vessels to the West Indies or to northern ports.

²⁸Skuwahket (probably Squhawky in Martin County) has not been located definitely. One might assume that it was near Washington, since the man rode there on horseback, but in those days Hugh Williamson might ride to New York and even a woman (Ann Harvey) rode from Edgecombe to Knoxville, Tennessee.

your place & you could conveniently get her into your Possession you would oblige me by so doing & by some opportunity I should get her again, he also borrowed from one of my Neighbours a Saddle, Curbed Bridle & Indian Boots which he has forgot or Neglects to return, he [is] in great Distress for want of them & I am sure would consider himself under great Obligations to you if you would also get them into your Possession—since the Man left this place I have understood he is a little cracked Brained, should this be the Case perhaps he has forgot of whom he got the Mare, I dare say he would readily give her up if you shew him this Letter or tell him you are desired to receive her. Be pleased to excuse this Liberty & believe me with great Regard Dear Sir you ob^t Ser^t

W^m M^cKENZIE

P.S. I congratulate you on the Adoption of the new Constitution by the State of Maryland a Piece of news which has just reach us but I suppose it is not new to you

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Washington

John Skinner²⁹ to John Gray Blount

PERQ^s. [PERQUIMANS] COUNTY May 21st. 1788

Dear Sir.

Your favour of the 6th. Inst. by M^{rs}. Blount came safe & am happy to inform you the Ladies arrived her safe Hearty & well. & still continues so to be. I observe you mention something respecting Lucy Harveys³⁰ Acc^t. with the Estate of Col^o. Harvey also her Acc^t. with M^r. Lawton, I can only inform you that there is no Acc^t. that I have met with in Col^o. Harvey.s papers only a Memo^{dm}. of what the Negroes has hired for since he had the Estate & what he rec^d. from M^r. Lawton which is about £302,19,,2- & for this present year M^r. Lawton has got the notes for the Negroe hire whose time will be out on the 2nd.

²⁹John Skinner represented Perquimans County in the senate where he served on numerous committees. He as often named with those whose votes were listed "nays." He was also a member of the conventions which considered the ratification of the Constitution of 1787 and was among those who worked for its ratification. *State Records of North Carolina*, XX, 417-418; XXII. 3, 38. See John Skinner to John Gray Blount, p. 491, below.

³⁰Lucy Harvey was the half-sister of John Gray Blount's wife and for a time John Gray Blount was her guardian. She married Major Reading Blount.

Monday in Jan^y. next—there is several Notes in my hands which is taken payable to you as Guardian to Lucy. which I think will necessary to [2] to Collect as soon as possible, therefore shou.d be glad if you cou.d make it convenient to come in or send some person Authorised to settle those Acct^s. as well as a private Acct^t. against you which stands open on the Col^o. Books. we have had a Vendue which will raise about £700—Articles sold but Low owing to the scarcity of money—

I have nothing in the News way worth informing you of—but am happy to hear that you are in the Convention

I am Dr Sir withe the
greatest esteeme your
Hbl^e. Serv^t.

JOHN SKINNER

N.B if you shou.d see Mr A. [Augustus] Harvey be so good as to inform him that there appears to be an Acct^t. open agst^t. him for a small sum

J.S.

Addressed: Mr. John G. Blount Merch^{'s}.

Washington

Fav^d. by Mrs. Blount

Hugh Williamson to [John Gray Blount]

NEW YORK 21. May 1788

Dear Sir

From my Arrival in Philad^a. which was on the 11th Inst (for I came by Water from Portsmouth) I have been persecuted by a Story that had been published in Martins Paper³¹ & republished I think in every Paper from N. C. to this Place. Is it true that North Carolina is toren into factions? Are you generally governed by Mobs? and such other Questions were frequent and familar. You know that in those Northern States which contain from 10 to 15 Counties each People think differently concerning the magnitude of a County from what we think in Carolina where a quarter Nag might cross a County in half an Hour.³² General Caswells Name being among the federal Candidates rendered the Story as published by Martin the more [2]

³¹*The North Carolina Gazette* (New Bern).

³²He has reference to the numerous small counties in eastern North Carolina. See "Map of North Carolina," below, p. 477.

exceptionable; the Story was so told as to induce the Belief that the Candidates were all present & had effected a Riot. In this State of Intelligence & being thoroughly chagrined by a Story so obviously calculated to injure a very respectable Character & with him to injure the general Character of the State I thought it my Duty to prepare a Paragraph and cause it to be published which is thought by the Readers to put the Matter in a very different or in a new Point of Light. The inclosed paper contains the Paragraph which if you think worth while you will forward to Govⁿ. Caswell. As I had no particular Information concerning the circumstances of the Dobbs Riot you may presume that I could not directly and pointedly contradict every assertion of Mr Martin, I was [3] therefore obliged to account for the Riot by reference to private disputes which otherwise I should have had no desire to mention, but even under this necessity you see that I have taken Care to cast no Shade on the Character of any individual.³³ I conceive that I am possessed of some Philosophy & Patience but still I have not patience Sufficient to be silent or unconcerned when I conceive that the Character of a friend is injured. I am Dr Sr

Your obed^t Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

Arnoldus Vanderhorst³⁴ to John Gray Blount

CHA^s.TON May 27th. 1788

Dear Sir

On the receipt of my letter Mr. Brailsford, put your Negro Man Jack on board a Captⁿ. Anthony, /one of our Coasters/ who refused to be answerable for his safe delivery, & suffered the Negro to make his escape, which is the reason he was not delivered to Mr. Fullerton, But this Morning, Jack was bro^t. to me by a Mr. Sanders, who said he took him up 75 miles from this & demanded Eight pounds which I refused & offered him that [what] the Law in this case allows, forty five Shillings sterling, which after a great deal of grumbling he took. I im-

³³While the sheriff was counting the votes for representatives to the convention a riot took place and ballots were destroyed so that he was unable to say who was elected. *State Records of North Carolina*, XXI, 470. Dobbs County was not represented at the Fayetteville Convention. *State Records of North Carolina*, XXII, 37.

³⁴Arnold Vanderhorst seems to have been a merchant of Charleston. He was to have made arrangements for William Blount to secure wagons to transport the goods for the Indians from Charleston to Hopewell.

mediately sent the Negro to the Work House³⁵ for security as no opportunity offers for your place that I know off, & to send him to any other port may be attended with this loss again, his expences will be about [2] eight pence or one shilling P day & a few shillings to the turn key. Not much more than half the Money you ask for him can be obtained here even in paper, such is the scarcity of money. Should any opportunity offer for Newbern or Washington will send him to you. I am with much esteem

Your Most humble Sert.

ARNOLDUS VANDERHORST

John G Blount Esqr.

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr.

Washington

North Carolina

P Post

Samuel Johnston to John Gray Blount

EDENTON 28th. May. 1788.

Dear Sir

I thank you for your Letter of the 18th. of May in answer to mine of the 12th. of April, and Shall be much obliged to you if from any materials in your hands you are enabled, that you will give me a more particular State of that Demand, to wit, the Full amount of it, what Sums have been drawn from the Treasury towards discharging it, and what these Sums have produced to the Credit of the State. I wish to have as Full information on the Subject as may be had, in order to have the advice of the Council in what manner we can best give Satisfaction to the Government of Martinique, and discharge the State from that incumbrance; if the materials in your hands do not enable you to give this information, I will be obliged to you to refer me to any person who can Furnish me with it.

I am very sensible of the great loss which the State must sustain, by Shipping Naval Stores, and think you acted prudently in discontinuing that kind of remittance, I Should at the Same

³⁵A workhouse was maintained in Charleston to take care of runaway slaves. When they were apprehended they were placed in the workhouse and the owner was notified. The authorities put the slave to work and saw that he had the necessities of life. The owner was obligated to pay the cost of this care. See Arnoldus Vanderhorst to [John Gray Blount], Charleston, August 16, 1788, below, p. 416.

time be obliged to you for your opinion of the most proper & advantageous mode to be pursued to make a saving remittance.

I am with great Regard

Dear Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

SAM^l. JOHNSTON

John Gray Blount Esquire

[2] *[William Blount to John Gray Blount]*

The within is a Copy of Mr. Devereaux Letter to Mr. Hazlehurst which I have forwarded by a Vessel under Cover to Doct. Williamson at Newyork—The Suits of Clara's are all off the Docket but will be commenced again.—I spoke to Moore to appear for us—I wanted to write to Tom. Blount but could not recollect his [3] Address but if you write by Tuesday's Post it will be in Time or you may write by Gustus's [Augustus Harvey] Boy who is wanted to Return tomorrow with his Horse—Old Mr. Ogden desires that it May be favoured by him and He will with Care forward it—at Mr. Johnson's Saturday—

NEWBERN 28th. May 88

Mess^{rs}. I. Hazlehurst & Co.*

Sirs

The inclosed letter from Mess^{rs}. John Gray Blount & Tho^s. Blount /Brothers to Mr. William Blount whom you saw at Philadelphia as Member of the Grand Convention/ has been handed to me by them Gentlemen requesting I would forward the Same to you by a line from myself My having undertaken the Charge as well as from what I have heard and know of them Gentlemen renders it incumbent on me to say something respecting the subject. I shall in Justice to their merit observe, that I have always understood, that they are men of good property, punctual to their engagements & in high repute & shall only add that I

*This is the enclosure mentioned above.

myself would on such an occasion /had I it in my power/ accept of their proposals—I am wth regard

Sirs

Your Ob^t. Servant

JOHN DEVEREAUX

WASHINGTON [May 28 1788]

We beg Leave* to inform you that We have established near this place a Nail Factory Which We mean to enlarge so as to employ from Twenty to thirty two Negroes. The greatest difficulty we meet is the procuring the Rod being to be had with you only for ready Mony or what to us is the same thing at a Months Credit. It would be in our power to pay puntually at three Months. From the quantity that passes through your Hands perhaps it might suit you to supply us at that Credit. If it will we will take what We want from you, We will not draw for more than three Tons at a Time, We will allow You the same Commission for shiping only as if you purchased and shiped it and such Produce as we ship to Philadelphia shall be to your Address. We shall be thankful for an Answer³⁶ by the first Conveyance. With Tenders of our Service We are,

Your most Ob^t. Serv^t,

Samuel Spencer³⁷ to John Gray Blount

NEW BERN, 31st. of May, 1788.

Dear Sir,

From the long and intimate Acquaintance that has subsisted between you and me, I hope I may take the Freedom to recom-

*This is evidently a copy of William Blount's letter enclosed with the one immediately above for John Gray's information.

³⁶Isaac Hazlehurst and Co. of Philadelphia informed them that since they had to purchase their bar iron with cash they could not sell on credit (Isaac Hazlehurst & Co. to John Gray Blount and Thomas Blount, Philadelphia, July 27, 1788, below, p. 414).

³⁷Samuel Spencer of Anson County was one of North Carolina's leaders in the colony's resolve to throw off British rule. He served with Waightstill Avery on the Provincial Council after the abdication of the last royal governor, Josiah Martin. He was a member of the legislature; clerk of the court in Anson County; judge of the superior court; and member of the Hillsboro Convention (1788), where he is said to have had an important part in the rejection of the Federal Constitution. His death is ascribed to an attack by a turkey gobbler which is said to have occurred as he sat in his own back yard. He had been in ill health and probably died from the shock of the attack. Wheeler, *Historical Sketches*, I, 24, 25.

mend to your particular Notice and Respect, Doctor John C. Osborne, who I understand resides at Washington, and from whom I lately received a Letter inclosing Two Letters from the State of Connecticut, one from Major Spencer my Brother, the other from Doctor Thomas Moseley, a Gentleman with whom I had an intimate Acquaintance and Friendship before I removed from that State, who was a Physician of considerable Eminence Eight and Twenty Years ago, who had received a College Education, and of whose good Principles, Honor and Integrity, I entertain a very high Opinion, who writes of Dr. Osborne thus, "The Bearer of this is Doctr. John Osborne of Middleton, Son of Doctr. John Osborne of said Town, and Grandson of the once Famous Doctr. Osborne of the same Place. He has had his medical Instructions under the Care of his Father, who is one of the best Physicians in this State; And this his Son I have been acquainted with from his Childhood, and I can with Truth Say, I know of no Young Gentlemen so well accomplished in medical Knowledge, and that is so likely to make a shining Character in his Profession. His Character is unspoiled on every Account. He purposes to practise Physic and Surgery in your State if he find proper Encouragement; and I do sincerely recommend him to your Patronage, and I can with more Boldness do it, being sensible you wish to encourage Merit wherever you find it."

My Brother likewise writes very handsomely of Dr. Osborne, and recommends him to me in as Strong Terms as a thorough Sense of his Merit can induce him to do. I was personally acquainted with Dr. Osborne's Father, and others of his Family, who bore a very respectable Character.

I shall therefore be happy to learn, that the Character and Conduct of Dr. Osborne meets with your Approbation; and any Services you may render him in his Advancement in Life, will be gratefully acknowledged by

Dear Sir, your very obedient Serv^t.

SAM^l. SPENCER.

John Gray Blount Esqr.

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esquire
Washington

James Warington to John Gray and Thomas Blount

[RICHMOND, May 1788]

Mess^{rs}. J. G. & Tho^s. Blount
Genⁿ.

In Consequence of valuable Consideration here rec^d. from Mess^{rs}. P. N. & S.* I do hereby exonerate & discharge you from any Claim or Claims which I may have against you by virtue of an Attachment laid in your hands by my Attorney in London upon the property of the said P. N. & S & you will therefore follow their orders relative to said property in same manner as if the said attachment had never been laid—In witness whereof I have hereunto sett my hand in the City of Richmond this day of May 1788—

JAMES WARINGTON

*Mess^{rs}. Pennock Nicholson & Skipwith
Addressed: Mess^{rs}. Jno G & Thos Blount
Merch^t
Washington

Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount

HILLSBORO June 2nd 1788

Dear Sir

A Letter accompanies this for a Mr Bassett Stith, of Virginia at present in New Bern, he first come out with a view of entering in this office, but finding it but a slow way of making Money, has relinquish'd it and is now on a Scheme of Speculation, he has perhpas 5 or 600 £ in Cash of our Currency with power to draw on Richmond to a considerable amount in specie I am not entirely possess'd of his Scheme, but final Settlements³⁸ are a part, perhaps he may want Something in your way, I give you this information on the Idea that it may possibly turn to your advantage, please have his Letters forwarded by post,

³⁸Soldiers' certificates. See below, p. 420, n. 58.

My compliments to Mrs. Blount & Family Mr Barr included,
Am Dr Sir

Yr. very obt Set

A. C. THOMAS

Addressed: Mr John Gray Blount
Merchant
Washington
hon'd by Mr Nunan

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

LONDON 4th June 1788

Dear Brother,

I told you in my Letter of the 3^d. March P Mr. Cooper which I presume you have long since rec^d. that I had absolutely determined to leave England this Month; but I now tell you it is absolutely impossible—I must wait the arrival of the Louisa, Cap^t. Blaney, a Ship belonging to Mess^{rs}. Wills & John Cowper now daily expected here from Norfolk—by her I expect both Letters & money from you & should my expectation be answered I will take passage in her back & leave England like a Gentleman—if not, I must leave it, when I can, in a shameful scandalous manner, as many of our Country men have done before me—My Credit is pushed to the extent to borrow a Shilling to pay the postage of this Letter—I have a fixed Rheumatic pain in my left hip which has disabled [2] me from Walking (except about the House) for some weeks past—otherwise I'm in very perfect health. Comp^s. &c. where due

Yours truly,

THO. BLOUNT

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr.
Washington
N^o Carolina

p Packet

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK 10th June 1788

Dear Sir

This will be handed you by Mr Marcus George³⁹ who goes to N Carolina with the Expectation of being employed as a Teacher in Some private or public Institution. Mr Marcus who has been educated for Priests Orders brings with him the most ample Testimonials concerning the goodness of his morals as that he has lived a blameless exemplary Life. He has been very well educated in the Several Parts of Learning that are usually taught in Colleges and seems to be well versed in Mathematics Astronomy & natural Philosophy he appears withall to be a modest young man & to possess liberal Sentiments. After what I have said I think I had best not mention either his particular religious persuasion or the Country that give him Birth. I fear that the Trustees are not ready to employ a Teacher at Greenville but I am persuaded that Mr George may be well employed either at Warrenton at Hills, [2] Hillsbro or some other Place that is not in a Sickly Situation. He will need a Horse that he may leave the flat Country before the Sickly Season advances and some of your Jockies will try to cheat him; from all such Sharpers I hope you will protect him till he has had a little Time to acquire Horseical Knowledge. I conceive that he will buy cheapest for ready Paper Mony, having first sold his Specie for Paper, but of this you can inform him best. I heartily wish that Mr George may soon get a good School for I verily believe that he will prove to be a man of Abilities of good morals a good member of Society and most useful Teacher.

I am Dear Sir

Your obed^t. Serv^t.

HU WILLIAMSON

John G Blount Esq^r

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK 14th June 1788

Dear Sir

Yours of 16th ult came to Hand too late by 24 Hours for the June Packet, the Mail was on Board & the Vessel ready to sail

³⁹George secured a position in the Warrenton Academy, where he was principal in 1802. Charles L. Coon, *North Carolina Schools and Academies, 1790-1840: A Documentary History* (Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton, 1915), 577.

when your Letter came to Hand else I should have contrived Some method of sending your Brother 170 Dolrs. Your Bill however is not paid. Mr Hazard says that you have never Sent him your Bond or obligation to perform the Service of course he fears the Treasury Board will not allow of the Charge if he pays the Mony. He wrote to the Board stating his Difficulty; they have delayed to give an Answer; To day I called on them to know what answer they proposed to give. They alledged that no Proof had been adduced that you had caused the mail to be carryed. In Reply I said that I knew the allegation to be true, To this they reply'd that this they would admit as good Proof of what had been done but after the Payment was made for an Easy Quarter, once P Week, without the Bond there was no Security that you might not drop it in the Summer when the trouble was greater. To this I only reply'd that I presumed they considered the Contract or Bond as a necessary Condition, they reply'd in the affirmative, and having previously resolved to ask no favours I would not say that I should be obliged to them for departing from the usual Rotine. [2] The British Packet is to Sail on the 3rd of July & I propose Sending the money by her in Specie to your Brother. The Amo^t of my Cash is about 120 Dls. The Balance I shall borrow of some acquaintance. In the mean while you will be so good as take the Occasion by first Post of sending on your obligation to the Post Master for conducting the Mail as proposed. Send also a Certificate from the Post Master or his Deputy at Washington that the Mail was properly & duly carryed by your Order & at your Expence, or to this Amount. It may not be amiss for you to Send Duplicetes by different Posts lest another Should be lost. and you may guess that I should feel awkwardly to be 3 or 4 Weeks without Cash, but as I conceive that your Brother might have Similar feeling I shall in the first Instance Send him the Cash & trust to incidents. Capt. Collins is to Send me Some naval Stores to Philad^a. but they may not be there for Some Time, & I expect a Dividend in this City of Some 200 Dls or more of a Bankrupts Estate but I have expected it for 3 years and more, so much the worse is the Chance you will Say. I think it will eventually come, but a Decision in [3] in Chancery is to be had first. I count upon an Answer to this Letter in 4 Weeks or near that Time not sooner, therefore it is that you cannot Send the Vouchers before the Packet sails. I have just rec^d a Letter from Mr Peterson of Yorkshire expressing his Wish that Mr Tho^s Blount

would put it in his Power to Serve him. But he who imports dry goods among paper money is throwing Spirits into the Fire that he knows must be consumed. I think Tho^s had much better try to man the Dutch Smack⁴⁰; with moderate Stone Ballast she will sail well.

I am Dr Sir Your obed^t Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

P:S. Mr Hazard has promised to Send you by this days Post a Copy of the Contract that you are to sign. On its arrival I will take Care that he signs one if usual or necessary.⁴¹

J^{no} G Blount Esqr.

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr:

Washington

N. C.

Free Hu Williamson

James Iredell⁴² to John Gray Blount

EDENTON June 19th. 1788

Dear Sir

I have great pleasure in acquainting you that on Wednesday last the question as to the ratification of the Constitution was put in a Committee of the whole house (for they do business in that way) of the Virginia Convention, where the numbers were, 89 for the ratification, 79 against it. They afterwards appointed a committee to consider of amendments.

I beg my best respects to M^{rs}. Blount & your Brother
and am

Dear Sir

Yours very respectfully

JA. IREDELL.

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr
Washington

⁴⁰A large fishing vessel.

⁴¹Williamson gave close attention to the Blounts' interests while he was in New York.

⁴²See above, p. 77, n. 53 (1783).

[*William Blount to John Gray Blount*]

GREENVILLE Sunday [June] 22^d. 1788

Spaight owes me by Note £75. and our Northern Account is in some Manner so connected that I do not wish you to send him his a/c before I see you which will probably be in the course of this Week. I shall want about 3000 Nails for Shingleing I suppose 8^d. will be best and about 1000 for Weatherboarding and flooring.—Speaking of Nails the Trustees of the Academy have had a Meeting and have determined to build a House at least 40 by 20 two Story high—I have said that they might depend on us for Nails—It seemed to be understod by them that 2/6 per lb was the present price indeed an estimate handed in by Warson had calculated them at that price—between 4 and 500 lb will be wanted according to his estimate. You, Reading and myself have subscrib'd £30 I have subscribed also £10 to the Dobb's & Gov^r. Caswell £25 to the Pitt Academy, I mean to propose to him to pay £10 for him here if he will pay £10 for me at Dobbs.—Forward the inclosed to Joseph Sitgreaves free of Postage through George if You can—You may direct to Joseph Sitgreaves in his absence to Willie, who will be ever to be found at Sitgreaves or at the [Governor's] Palace

Charles Kirby to John Gray Blount

PHILAD^a. 23^d. June 1788

Mr. John Blunt

Sir I here Send to your Care a Negro Boy named Jack which you are to take into your Charge or Custody till my return to your place, he belongs to a friend of mine who came through Washington while I was there, and wishes to Send him back as he cannot Keep him in this place I Send him to you in his behalf he runing all Risques for the Said boy Jack—till you have a chance to Sell him Say if you can get Two Hundred hard Spanish Mild [Milled] dollars or as much more as you can get, or Else Keep him till my arrival he is a Trusty Valuable boy either in house or Plantation work, which Keep him clloose [close] at, it (his work say) Sir you have nothing more than to take this Boy in your charge till my arrival at your place. at which time

shall bring every thing Clear for the disposal of him[.] Captⁿ. Hess will deliver him to you. you Giving him a receipt Baring all Accidents, Keep him well at work— [2] you will be able to Know the boy by the time I return, but if you can Sell him for what I have before mentioned do it. and Keep the money till my return or you get a Clear Bill of Sail for him in doing which you will much oblige, Sir

Your Hb^{le}. Serv^t.

CHA^s. KIRBY

if Mr. Barr Should be there let him Know it is the Boy Captⁿ. James Cockran[']s] who was

Addressed: John G. [&] T. Blount Esq^{rs}.

Merch^t.

Washington

Fr Capt. Hess

Thomas Gilchrist to John Gray Blount

TARBOROUGH June 27th. 1788

Dear Sir—

Mr. Mackie brought up your Account's of Storage, & Accot. Current, with both of which were well pleased; especially as we had not been used to receive such proper Acc^{tt}. from your place the balance due you £15.4.7 Shall remitt by first good opportunity, but if none offers your order at sight Shall be duly honour'd— There appears to be on hand 67½ Bushels Pease & 2 bb^{ls}. Pork which Shou'd be glad wou'd dispose of (particularly the Pease) immediately—If you cannot Barter them for good Allum Salt⁴³, a Cap^t. Cameron will give you part of his Cargo as Exch^e., & I wou'd prefer Coffee, & Sugar, but do the best you can & charge us for your trouble 5 P Ct which is the least Commission I have paid—Mr. Jones has Some Allum Salt, but it Seems waits instruction's from Phil^a. about the disposal of it, I beg you wou'd buy or borrow in the meantime, to be sent up first conveyance 100 or 50 Bushels of it, to be paid in whatever manner you agree—At Settlement he owed us £25. which will trouble you with an order to receive—I am w^h respect

Yr's THO^s. GHILCHRIST

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r.

Washington

⁴³A term usually applied to the salt from the West Indies, particularly Turks Island. This salt had very large crystals.

Thomas Harvey⁴⁴ to John Gray Blount

[PASQUOTANK] [30 June 1788]

D Sir

Through the Neglect of Mr Lawton Your Wool has not Cum to hand for fear You Should want I have procurd and Send You the Wool of 7 Sheap much larger than Yours though am very Sorry they have Burs which will be Imployment fer Your Small Negroes in all probability Yours was allso Burry as they Run in the Woods The Wool I send is the Best I Can Procure

I am D Sir Your

Very H^m S[ir]

TOM HARVEY

20½ lb Wool

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr.

Merch^t

Washington

George Nicolson to John Gray and Thomas Blount

RICHMOND 30th June 1788

Mr. Jn^o. G. Blount

D^r Sir

I have to acknowldge rect^t. of your favor of the 10th. Curr^t. & am glad to find that there was a prospect of your Vessel coming round. I hope to see her in a few days do my D^r Sir exert yourself to make us all & every remittance in your power—Your Brig is I hope by this time arrived. if she has I hope you will loose no time in forwarding as much of her Cargo as you assured me should be sent round to dicharge the balance, never will money be of so much use as at present—

Our Convention adopted the Constitution the 25th. by a majority of 10—I hope that your state will be wise enough to [2] follow our example—You have annexed, a State[ment] of the final settlements at your Credit with us agreeable to the prices here at that date I am with great respect

Your mo. ob Ser

GEO. NICOLSON

⁴⁴Probably the brother-in-law of John Gray Blount.

1788

June 3. 3000 doll^s final Settlm^t.

the priced fixed by J Graham) @ 3/3—£ 141. 5

)

31½ Y^s. Interest 552 D^s—@ 2/6 20.12.6

£ 161.17.6

Addressed: J G. and T Blount

Merchants

Washington

N^o- Carolina

Andrew Connor to John Grey [Gray] Blount

DUBLIN IRELAND July 13th—1788

Sir

I have done my Endeavour about Cork to Dispose of the Lands⁴⁵ I Brought Over but no boddy in that Country Will think of purchaseing I intend to go shortly to the North of Ireland to try for that is the only place if the[y] do not Sell there or in Scotland there is No Chance for Some time if the New Constitution takes place please to Let Me know for that Will encourage the Emigration Here Very much[.] Your land the people dont seem to like so well as I have not the Small plots & Grants to Show[.] be so kind to Send me if possible the stages from Washington to Nashville With the distance likewise an Account of the Way by Water from Philadelphia there With the Different Carrying places which Will be an advantage to me

I am With Respect

Your Obedient

Humble servant

AND^w CONNOR

Direct to Me at

N^o 5 Handbury Lane

Dublin—

Addressed: Mr. John Grey Blount

Merchant

Washington

North Carolina

⁴⁵The Blounts hoped to sell land to Europeans and bring them over in their vessels to settle in America. This plan was worked out in more detail later.

*George Nicolson to John Gray Blount*RICHMOND 14th July 1788D^r Sir

I am just now faverd with yours of the 1st. by your Brother,⁴⁶ he will inform you that all matters are safe respecting his Cargo—the price of Rum is 3/9. & Sugar of good quality 48/—these prices I hope to get fer yours—the Tar I have sold @ 8/—the Shingles shall get rid of a soon as possible, & hope that you will soon send round a further quantity in order to discharge both our debt & your acceptance to Harrison

I met some Gentlemen from Kentucky who gave me particular information about your Land⁴⁷ that Mr. Baily Smith had found your marks & Surveyed it for you, that some Surveys had been made so as to cutt into the Land but that the proprietors were not disposed to hold their title—Mr. Smith will I presume do every thing [2] that is necessary—I wrote you the 30th Ult^o. covering a State of the Indents—I am with much respect

Your mo: ob Ser

GEO. NICOLSON

Addressed: Mr.. John G Blount

Merchant

Washington

N^o.. Carolina*Abram Hodge⁴⁸ to John Gray Blount*

NEWBERN, July 16 [17]88

D^r. Sir,

There happening unfortunately to be a mistake in handbills regarding the Stages, which were forwarded you last week, I have printed them over again, & I trust correctly—they will be delivered by tomorrow's Stage,—Preparing to remove our office to Edenton we have Stopt our paper—here, I however had it in-

⁴⁶Jacob Blount. See George Nicolson to John Gray Blount, August 24, 1788, below, p. 420.

⁴⁷This refers to John Gray Blount's claims to Transylvania lands. See William Bailey Smith to John Gray Blount, Hartford, May 6, 1782, above, p. 26.

⁴⁸Abraham Hodge (1755-1805) was the state printer and maintained presses in Fayetteville, New Bern, and Edenton. He was associated with his nephew, William Boylan (see below, p. 478, n. 103, and with Henry Wills. Hodge was born in New York and did not go to North Carolina until after the Revolution. Charles Christopher Crittenden, "North Carolina Newspapers before 1790," in *The James Sprunt Historical Studies* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1928), XX, No. One, 13, 14; W. C. Allen, *History of Halifax County* (Boston: The Cornhill Company, 1918), 176-177; Stephen B. Weeks, *The Press of North Carolina in the Eighteenth Century* (Brooklyn: Historical Printing Club, 1891), 39-42.

serted in Mr. Martin's,⁴⁹ which I hope will be agreeable

Inclosed I send your account, the amount I beg you if possible to send by next stage, as I intend setting off shortly for Edenton, and am much in want—

I also forward by this conveyance some proposals, & 2 subscription [2] lists for the Laws,—with 60 receipts—the Latter to be given on their payment of 40/— ,

I had some expectation of taking Washington in my route to Edenton, but circumstances intervened which I believe will induce me to go by water with the office—

With best compliments to Mrs. Blount, I remain, with Sentiments of respect

Your humble Servt.

A HODGE

NB. Should you part with any receipts—it will be necessary to take receipt for the same

J. G. Blount, Esqr.

Addressed: John G. Blount, Esq.
Washington

John Pringle to John Gray Blount

PHILADELPHIA 21 July 1788

Mr J G Blount

Sir

Your favor of the 14th. ulto. was received in due time for which am obliged tho' the Tobacco turned out very indifferent three of the hogsheads particularly I make no doubt of your closing that matter & the Balance of Campbells bill also I must request your doing the needfull respecting the Debt long due me P Oliver Tuton deceased as by accounts he left Effects there was some property to come for John Goodman if so do try to have it remitted I hope to hear from you soon

I am Sir

Your very hble Sert

JOHN PRINGLE

22^d P S

Your Toba much of it Complained of[.] Toba is 25/ to 30/ James River best Qlty is Always higher your Curry [currency] I hear

⁴⁹*The North Carolina Gazette* (New Bern).

is got to slow Ebb, hope when the Constitution is settld it may be good as the other states, please turn [the page.] [2] Mr James Barr informs me the present Tuton settld the debts due by his late Brother by giving lands of that he Mr Barr had spoke of it to you, I leave this to yr self req[ues]ting you to do me in this as you think best, Sir yours as before

JOHN PRINGLE

Addressed: Mr. Jn^o Gray Blount

Merchant

Washington

North Carolina

Richard Blackledge to William Blount

MAJ^r JORDONS Monday Night 8 [July 23, 1788]

O Clock —

Dr Sir

After a Sevear Days Labour, Disappointments and Imbarrisments. I have this Instant reached here with 20 Half Joes. a 8 Doll^s & 1 Milld Double loon at 16 Doll^s. say 176 Doll^s. a 15/. £132. herewith P John Jordon J^{rs}. Express*—Mr Dannels Money is out to Gorham untill January—& from the Disappointments of the fore part of the day I have not been able to Reach Albrittons & Carons. where I have hope to git Some Money. Mind I here Expect to Borrow on some Terms. Maj^r. Jordon goes with me & succeed. I will If Possable & git to hand as Early as possible. Believe me not to have been Idle this day & rely I will do all in my power Tomorrow & be with you between the Hours of 10 & 2 oClock. I wish much to relieve Simpson & see him eyr he goes for Newbern. as I want an Arraignment made for futer Ceremony with Ben Coakly &c

Your Worried Ob^t Ser^t

R^d BLACKLEDGE

The Honble

W^m. Blount Esqr.

*Obtained for a Negroe taken by R. B. from one of the Bucks. R. B. returned to this place on Tuesday without any Mony and immediately sat out for Cokely Via Tarboro^g. to see what He can work out of him and to be here on Sunday Night *certain*.—

Simpson bid off the Ware House at £ 800. Atmore bid nearly as much[.] Reading gits the Negroes through Simpson. The biger of the Chil [2] dren is now here and James Handcock has agreed to pay for her £ 80—on Monday he has £ 75 by him He is rather fearful She is one that is included in M^{rs}. Blackledges Marriage Settlement but he may be easily convinced She is not.—Beside the within mentioned £ 132 I borrowed £ 100 of Purkins and paid Simpson so that I saw Credit on our £ 450 Note for £ 232. There is yet due £ 218. how to be paid unless Ebern will take Jim Jasper I know not.—You will readily conjecture that Mony that is to be had from Hancock is to be applyed to pay Purkins the Mony borrowed.—Simpson left this yesterday at 2 O'Clok, he grumbld some but I cared not but rejoiced that I had been able to pay him so much and so I told him He was obliged to New Bern to get his dollars or rather his changed into paper for it seems they are worth to Faulkneir only 12/ the dollar, and to get Taylor's Notes to send up to you to get the Mony for him. I have suggested to him that if he sent you these Notes and Taylor would assure you that he would pay them at the Rise of the Convention that I thought you could borrow Mony immediately and pay Faukner and repay the Lender when Taylor paid you—In this Way; I supposed you could do it[.] Taylor I suppose will have many Boarders, they will let him have their Tickets which will be Mony to the Treasury and the the Treasurer I suppose on knowing this will advance to you or lend to you if you please the Mony to pay Faukner.

GEENVILLE Wednesday July 23^d 1788

[*Joseph Martin to Governor Samuel Johnston?*]

[Copy]*

NORTH CAROLINA HILLSBOROUGH July 25th. 1788

Inclosed you have Copies of Letters from Col^{os}. Hutchins & Maxwell, by which you will see the deplorable situation of Indian affairs on our Frontiers & I expect greatest part of the northern & Southern Tribes will take part with the Cherokees.

I shall set out immediately for that Quarter and do every thing in my power to bring about a reconcilliation and let you know my success as soon as possible, but I fear nothing will now do short of an Expedition against them which might have been

*Martin evidently sent this for William Blount's information.

prevented if my appointment had come forward any time before the middle of May last.

I am [not?] doubtful [that] the Chickasaws will be in the same unfriendly disposition shortly if neglected[.] I was appointed Agent to that Nation as well as to the Cherokees by the State of Georgia, In consequence of which the Chickasaws have been with me twice and have sent for me several times to come down & regulate their affairs; but Congress having appointed a Superintendant I declined going; but had I have had power to Act should have, done my utmost to quiet their minds, For in July 1777 when very few could be found to undertake that business I rec^d. a Com^s. as Agent from the State [2] State of Virginia when more than half the Cherokee Tribe was at war with the United States and two Agents under the direction of a Superintendant appointed by the Crown of Great Britain actually resided there amongst them, who made several attempts to bring me over to their interest but finding they faild they offer'd great rewards for my Scalp; I have also acted as Agent for the State of North Carolina in times of eminent danger And I flatter myself with the appropriation [approval] of the State

I shall feel a singular pleasure in receiving Instructions from Congress or yourself but am unacquainted with the Superintendent nor have I rec^d. any Instructions from him

You will please inform me if it is necessary I should attend the Treaty And be assured every part of your Instructions shall be complied with if in the power of

Your

Jean Jacques Berard to John Gray & Thomas Blount

L'ORIENT 26 July 1788.—

Washington Mess^{rs}. Jno & T Blunt
Sirs

The adjoined Circular imparts the dissolution of my Late Partnership, with the Liquidation of which I remain encharged & continue the Business. of the House in my Name solely, therefore please to take Note of my Signature & command my Services on all Occasions. I refer to my Respects to you of 20 Ober [October] last, since when you'll have heard of our Govern-

ments Determination obliging the Farmers⁵⁰ to receive annually 14000 Hhds Tobacco from Individuals I am now delivering to them all those that remained under my Care at the averaged Price of 33.# with 15 Pr Tare, in Consequence whereof our Market is quite clear of common & middling Sorts of Tobacco, but on Accot. of the low State of this Trade all over Europe the Farmers have come to a determination not to exceed in future 28 a 32.# with 15 Pr Tare for the above mentioned Sorts fit for their Purposes, however I think that in Consequence of the Advices from this Side the Prices will lower proportionately in America, in which Case the Adventures to this Port will turn out as profitable as at any other & should you find Room to speculate this Way I reiterate the Assurance of my managing your Intrests with the same Zeal as my own & remain truly

Sirs Y^r most obed^t Servant

J. J. BERARD

I Keep up the Prices of Prime
James River Tob^o. at 38 a 39#.
for Exportation—

Addressed: Mess^r. Jn^o & T Blunt
Merch^t.
Washington
(Virg^{as})

Isaac Hazlehurst & Co. to John Gray Blount & Thomas Blount

Mess^{rs}. John Gray Blount & Tho^s. Blount

PHILADELPHIA 27th. July 1788

Gent.

We receivd a few weeks ago your favor of the 27th. May, wishing to be supplied with Rod Iron at three months credit—it woud afford us pleasure to promote your manufactory but as we purchase our Bar Iron altogether with ready money, we are unable to sell the Rods on any other terms than for Cash—We are very respectfully

Gen. Your mo. Hb^{le}. Serv^{ts}.

ISAAC HAZELHURST & Co.

Washington

Addressed: Mess^{rs}. Jno. Gray Blount and Thos. Blount
Washington

⁵⁰The Farmers General. See above, p. 276, n. 40 (1787).

Thomas Blount to [John Gray Blount]

LONDON 6th August 1788

Dear Sir,

Your favor of the 29th May reached me the 30th Ult^o. & being thereby enabled to obtain a release from the attachment which has detained me here so long, I have taken passage in the *Louisa*, a Ship belonging to mess^{rs}. Wills & John Cowper, to sail this day for Portsmouth Virg^a.—My baggage has been on board since yesterday Morning & the Ship has dropped 6 Miles down the river to a place called Blackwall, where I myself shall be in less than two hours—

My Debts here amot. to £115 Sterling wholly for Money lent me—which Sum, if you Shall not have remitted before this reaches you, pray remit immediately to my very good friend Mr. Murdoch, N^o. 8 Crutched friars, who is my principal Creditor & I would not that he should be Kept out of his Money three Months for twenty times the Sum—because I know that he subjected himself to the greatest inconvenience to oblige me on this occasion—besides I have pledged Myself to him in the most Solemn manner that there shall be no manner of delay in the payment [2] My passage I have on Credit at Twenty Guineas payable to Mr. John Cowper, the owner of the Ship, in Virg^a. which you will please remit him as soon as possible—should you receive this before you hear of my arrival I will thank you to send off my Servant & Horses with a supply of money to defray my expences to meet me at S^o. Quay⁵¹—the Thirty pounds from New York I have not yet heard of—present my Duty & respects where due—in hopes of seeing you very Soon. I am

Sincerely

Your Bro^r.

THO. BLOUNT

*John Simpson⁵² to John Gray Blount*NEWBERN 10th. August 1788

Dear Sir

I have just now your Favor of yesterday I am satisfied You did all that could be done but it was upon the Supposition you

⁵¹South Quay, or South Key, was in Virginia, southwest of Suffolk on the road to Halifax, North Carolina. See map "North Carolina in 1770," in Crittenden, *Commerce of North Carolina*, facing 196.

⁵²See above, p. 368, n. 1 (1788).

would have before that rec^d Taylors money & given it to Falconer, that I acquiesced in your Broy^{rs}. [brother, Reading?] Application & as the money was really Falconers say the £40. I ought not—It was Cruel in Taylor not to pay immediately & it is Unjust in him to protract payment of the £73—So much for Obliging him—

I am really Uneasy at forfeiting my Word & Honor to Falkner—I must now be upon our friends for the pay of the Balance of the Note which is £218 & the £40 paid Perkins As I am Really in a deplorable situation for want of money—I request your Strenuous Evertions. I shall not describe my Case it makes me Sick—The Louisa is in Boston—You will, you must assist me in this World of Troubles—

I think you Sh^d have Sent 2/3 of your Convention Gentlemen to Botany Bay or if that is too Good to Scotland on their Way to [2] to their Destined Mansions—

Adieu

Your Distressed

JOHN SIMPSON

I can have no Relyance on any help from R B through Coakley—Write your Broy^r W^m. my Situation I mean to be at Greenville this Week— JS

Addressed: John G Blount Esqr.

Washington

Arnoldus Vanderhorst to [John Gray Blount]

CHA^s.TON 16th. August 1788—

Dear Sir

Captⁿ. Thorogood, has not as yet arrivd here that I can learn, or should have sent. your Negro by him as you directed. Since which I am favour'd with yours by Captⁿ. Webster, to whom I have delivered the Negro Jack⁵³ as you desire, and inclos'd you have Captⁿ. Websters rec^t. for him, also the Bill of Sale for Jack you befor sent me, and at foot an accot. of the expence I have been at for you in this business, and which I request the favour of you, to remit me as soon as you can make it convenient. Captⁿ. Webster refusing to take Jack, without he was Iron'd I have had him hand cuffed, I wish him safe to hand,

⁵³This was probably the slave which was left by Charles Kirby earlier. See Charles Kirby to John Gray Blount, Philadelphia, June 23, 1788, below, p. 405.

and am with best respects to your worthy Father and the rest of his Family

Your Most Obedt. humble Servant

ARNOLDUS VANDERHORST

P. S. Please when you see my friend Col^o. W^m. Blount inform him the Bills he left with S & N are delivered to Gen^l. Martins order as he directed. the order he left on Major Hazzard we have no prospect of recovering.—I will thank you to enquire of your good father, if the Grass /of which he gave me a few Seed when last at his house/ he call'd Crow foot has answer'd for Meadow or pasture, & inform me in your next.—

Accot. of expences for Jack—

Cash paid M ^m . Sanders for taking up & delivering)	
him to the work House agreeable to Law.....)	£ 2. 5.0
paid I Graham for 1 p ^r . hand Irons.....	5.0
to 82 days Maintainance in work House @ 8 ^d Pday.....	2.14.8
to Confining & releasing Jack	2.0
	<hr/>
Sterling.....	£ 5. 6.8
	12
	<hr/>
	7/ 64. 0.0
	/
	<hr/>
	7. 2.10 1/4

John Jones to John Gray Blount

LOWER MERION August 17th. 1788

Mr. John G Blount

Sir

I am Sorry I have adress you this Occation thats Craving money from you that has been due these thirteen Months past[.] I did Exspect More Punktuallity from you, and I am Suffering for want of it[.] I must beg that on the Receipt of this you will forward what you owe me as Soon as Possible to my Releif and Save me the Throble of Coming to Carolina this fall[.] your Compliance will Very much oblige your Most ob^t. Humble Servant

JOHN JONES

N B it tis Rather cruel to keep me out of my Money So long and you keeping it in your own hands I Should be Glad to here from you Soon to know what you will do for me or how soon

JJ

William McDaniel to John Gray Blount

POINTE PETER⁵⁴ 17th. August 1788—

Sr. I arived hear 7th. inst. on the 8th. I presented the Bill you Sent me drawn on Messrs. Macy & Co. he Sent to Basseterr to Mr. Salam [La Lanne] who came & informed me he had one of the Bills Sind over to him by Mr. Blackledg which he said Mr. Blackledg gave him to secure him untill his bond was taken up which he was bound for Mr. Blackledg to you, I have Sence Sean the Bill with Mr. Blackledgs name on the Back I planely Saw I Should get nothing if I went to law but Rather bring on my Self Sum Considerabl expences which I should be very ill ab'l to pay as my Cargo wount not fetch more then the first Cost, I would Scertenly have gone from this if I Could got money to have Cleard me of the Port, have Sold my Shingls & plank Shingls 22 livres plank 115 D°. Cash Tobacco & staves Stick on hand—the Staves purhaps will fetch me 130 lives [livres] in Rum a 2/6^d & 50 Livres for the hh^d. Tobacco 38 D°. D Molases is 78 livres & Scearse at that—

Markts ar low in Martinico & hear ther worse there is no avoyeding a bad voyage when Every thing works to geather to Effect it, no one man would By [buy] my Cargo exsept I would take Rum for the hole of it[.] I was offered in Rum 20 livres for Shingls plank 130 Staves 140 tobacco 41 £. 5s., I was told by Severl to take Clear of him who offerd it that he was a— [2] I do not Exspect to Git from this till the first of Sep^r. we have had a Small Blow hear on the 14th. Ist. have not as yet heard of any damage it has don it was a Bout a 3^d. COZen to Haricain, Alderson Elleson Schooner is hear and will Sail with in this 10 Days She has proved very Leakey & Considerable of her Cargo damieged—

Sence the Vessel is detainid longer then She exspected I have somthing further to informe you tho Every line is Worse & Worse I have Sold the tobacco for 38#. and Staves for 115#. 10^s Staves for Rum tobacco for molases a 75 which is the Cash price tho very Scearse—am very Sorrey of the guale of wind which you have had Sence we left that—have no Good newes

⁵⁴See map, "Ports of Call," p. 175.

to Wright you & am tiered of Bad so Conclud pleas to forrowd
the with in Closed line or two to my wife and you¹ oblige

Sr. your hombl. Serv^t.

W^m. M^cDANIEL

August 21st 1788—

Addressed: John G Blount Esqr.

Washington

P. Brgt. Carolina

Cap^t. Mitchel

Charles Gerrard to John Gray Blount

TARBOROUGH August 18th. 1788—

Sir

M^{rs}. Harvey took the hard money to Greenville last week,
but have wrote to Col^o. William Blount by Billy Williams to
Send you 40 Dollars if he has any on hand of those Carried by
M^{rs}. Harvey.—We are out of Salt and nothing appears to be
So much in demand at present and none to be had in Town ex-
cept a little find [fine].—I think if you Could immediately fur-
nish us with Salt there might a good deale of Corn & flaxseed⁵⁵
be taken in.—you'll please Send the flaxseed Casks by first op-
portunity as we have about 70 or 80. Bushels lying on the upper
floor.—The rum would not bear but 10 Gallons to the hh^d.—

I am Sir

yr. Ob^t. Humble Servant

CHARLES GERRARD

P. S. we want 20^d. nails and will Soon want 6^d.

Addressed: J. G. Blount Esqr.

Merch^t.

Washington

Pr. Billy Williams

Abram Hodge to John Gray Blount

EDENTON, Aug^t. 20—[17]88

Mr. Blount,

Sir,

Some time before I left Newbern, & while you was at the
Convention, I forwarded your acct. agreeably to your request—

⁵⁵Flaxseed was a common commercial product at this time. There was a market for it in
30 America as well as in Europe.

I think it amounted to about Eight Pounds—I have to request that you will please to pay Mr. Hansahan 40/- & 6/- to Mr. Keefe it being for monies &c advanced to my partner Mr. Wills⁵⁶ on his arrival there from Phil^a. with a quantity of paper, &c—the balance I would wish you to forward by post to this place [2] I would be much obliged to you to desire Mr. Hansahan to forward by Mr. McCabe, all the articles left with him except the paper & keg of ink[.] Will thank you also to speak to Mr. McCabe to take charge of them

When at Newbern I also forwarded to you a number of receipts for the new addition of the laws⁵⁷—would wish to hear from you concerning them—As the post is about Setting off, conclude in haste Y^{rs} &c—

A HODGE

Addressed: John G. Blount, Esq.
Washington

George Nicolson to John Gray Blount

RICHMOND 24th August 1788

Dr Sir

I wrote you a few lines by your Brother Jacob who I hope arrived safe before the Gale—since when I have none of your favors—The Sale for Rum & Sugar has been very dull as there has a very considerable quantity of the new Crop been pushed here—tho' I shall be able to place them at your credit @ 3/6. & 45/- the Tar is all sold at 8/. I hope your Brig is arrived & that you will soon be able to send another Craft round—

I have been obliged to send the Bearer as far as Edenton to receive some of your State Certfs & to endeavor to exchange them either for Final Settlements⁵⁸ or Loan Office Certfs—if he does not do it [at] Edenton I wish that it may be in your power to do it—either at Washington or Newbern [2] Have you been able to purchase any Final Settlements or Loan Office Certfs since I saw you they are now worth 4/. the Interest 3/. in the pound—at which rate I will take all you have or that you can

⁵⁶Henry Wills was Hodge's partner. Together they published the *State Gazette of North Carolina* until March 30, 1792. After this Wills continued publication until 1799. Crittenden, "North Carolina Newspapers before 1790," 13, 14.

⁵⁷Hodge was the printer for the laws which James Iredell had revised.

⁵⁸These were certificates issued to soldiers on discharge or furlough. *State Records of North Carolina*, XXI, 863-864.

get—if you can turn your Rum &c into those papers I wou'd much rather prefer them than it—as you may probably purchase up a quantity below those prices wou'd it not be an object to endeavor to effect it. if there is a probability of doing any thing keep the Bearer Mr. Monro a few days—

The general disafection to the new Government with you may in some measure operate to your advantage in this business—I wou'd wish you to exert yourself to make us as large a payment in those papers as you can—I shall be glad to hear from you upon this business in as particular a manner as possible by return of the Bearer &am [3] with great respect

Your. mo. ob Se

GEO. NICOLSON

Addressed: Mr. J G Blount
Washington

J Lalanne to John Gray Blount

Mr. John Gray Blunt

POINTE APITRE august 29th 1788

Sir

I was not surprise at all to see the bill on my Friend Come for Payement, we expected it every moment, and we had enconsequence Secured the money with in hundred Pounds to that Purpose; but I was Struck dumb when I Found to be still bound to you For a sum of money which were to be Paid by Mr Blackledge being your sole debtor, as For me T'was to serve him & suport his Credit, that is perfectly at your Knowledge, Now if he does not Paid shortly, the property which appears to be my own There, must shortly be sold to do it, for Mr Blackledges is all under execution, There is the way you explain yourself in your Letter to me which is very Plain Certainly, I do not Know what name to qualify him, he is the worst man who ever existed on earth I may with Thruth Call him my Devil as he used to Call Simpson, For he will be my ruin altogether,

The day he came down to smith creek, he swear upon his honour (he never Knew but the word) he had sold apiece of Land to Wallace to Paid off that bound, To be sure I was wrong to depend upon what he said, Knew him to be the greatest Lyer I ever heard, yet it is very Lucky For me, that I secured one of the same bill which you are now bearer of another [2] I

acknowledge I never Paid that bill to Mr Blackledge, it is Still due provided he Paid off our note of hand in your Favour in Compliance of which I have got the bill for my security and so if you will send on the bound Jointly with the bill Which you are the bearer, and ordered the first delivered up, I promis Faithfully to decharge and honoured, the bill at sight Because I ask no more but what is my own, Then the one I have Got will be void & of no value in my hand, in fact I offered Capt m'Kdaniel, security for the Compliance of This, but he Think my word Good enough & Took it, I wish Sir you will do the same, & be sure every things will be easy For you and For me

I Remain

Sir Your most hum: servant

LALANNE

Addressed: John Gray Blunt Esqr.

Washington

North Carolina

John Trippe to John Gray Blount

STATE OF GEORGIA WILKS [WILKES] COUNTY

August the 30th/1788

Dr Sir I take this oppertunity to inform you that I hav taken Evry opertunety of inquiring about your land that has ben in my power and Cannot Be informed of aney Creek By the name of Rooty Creek on this side of the oconey River[.] the hunters informe me that ther is a Creek over the oconey River by the name of Rooty Creek if it lys on this side of the River it must ly low down the Country [.] I will inquir still and if I Can find out wheare it lys I will inform you as son as po osable[.] pir-haps when times gets Better Settled abody will have abetter Chance of inquiring I must inform you that the Commishenners is to met [meet] the ingins [Indians] the 15 of September in order for a treety and we have glorious fine Cropps in this Cuntry Thenks be to god for the saim as to my own part I Expect to make Neer three hundred Barrels of Corn and six or sven Hogyest of toBaco Beside other truck such as peas patators and Cotten and so fourth—

I must inform you that I and my famley is well thenkes Be to god for it[.] hoping this will find you nd yours in the same I

desire to Be rembred to all my old acquaintance astpshely to
Mr Blackledg and Captain Keais and ther famleys[.] pleas to
inform Mr Richard Grier that times is not Settled yet but I
Trust en god they will be this fawl for I understand that the
Congress has taken it in hand So all from your

Most obedent and Sencears friend

JOHN TRIPPE

pray Sr forward the in Closed Letters as quick as posale

Addressed: Captain John Gray Blount Esqr

Living in North Carolina in Washington Town on

Tar River in Beaufort County

This with cear [care] favred by Mr Cox

T Brice⁵⁹ to [John Gray Blount]

WILMINGTON September 5th 1788.

Dear Sir

Your favor addressed to Mr. Bradley's Care came to hand
some time ago.—I have no excuse for not having answered it
before now, unless a lingering indisposition will be admitted
of, to which cause I have a hope you will readily impute my
Silence.—I fear Mr. Mallett was under a mistake as to my bring-
ing a letter for you from Mr. Duncan—who came down in the
Brig only the Evening previous to my departure from Montego
Bay—he said he would write, but being anxious to get of[f]
the Polly's Cargo without delay, he was too much engaged to
attend to writing—his destination was to Halifax with what
freight he could get & produce he could Command—Since I ar-
rived here he has informed me by way of Charleston that he
Should Sail in all June, and on his return to Jamaica, he had
thoughts of sending to this State,—Mr. Duncan was long in
expectation of the Brig before She made her appearance—it
was indeed unlucky she did not arrive a few weeks sooner, for
the market he had in view had got nearly supplied at the mod-
erate price of 60 Dollars PM for Staves, and before he got to
the Bay there had been several Supplies of Lumber of every
Species, so that I can form no conjecture what he might Sell
for—a Cargo of Boards which I sent from hence and which

⁵⁹No further reference to Brice has been found.

arrivd [2] by the 25th July only commanded Twenty four Dollars, & Shingles Six Dollars.—

I am happy to hear from almost every quarter, of your prosperity in business, an increase of which and a perfect enjoyment of health to yourself and family, will ever afford pleasure to

Dear Sir

Your very obt. Servant,

T BRICE

P. S. Perhaps, and I think it probable Mr. Mallett put a letter in the P^t. Office for you, as there were several arrivals from different parts of the Island, *about* the time I came [in transit?]

Richard Blackledge to John Gray Blount

TARBOROUGH Sep^r. 5th. 1788

Dear Sir/—

After leaving you I went direct to Geo. Littles. he was from home I persued him to Stewarts to no purpose he has not 40/ in Money. his Dependancy are Ja^s Bonner & Stewar[t']s Work not done nor will be in Six Mo^s. & C & C[.] for a negro. Girl 14 y^{ts}. old he wants if Likely at 80 to £ 100—From their I went to a Mr. Wikersons. his Money Out & not to be had for the Moment[,] my Next push to Borrow of Pirkins[.] I found him on the head of Grindell at a Yearly Meeting. but to no purpose. I being then in 16 miles here. thought more Could not be done this day—I have sent Jake of this Night to Greeneville. to W^m Blount & T. B. to try to Borrow old Moreings Money ab^t. 50 £ & hand you Express[.] rely I will go on & Never stop eyr I raise it to Replace.⁶⁰ I Start direct after Breckfast in the Morning will Sell the Negroes on Some Tirms or Other—Maj^r. Jarrard is up the Country & will not be down here in less then 12 Days —& Mr A Harvey says their 130 to 150 B^s. Flaxseed in Store & pretty good. the Water is Low & no hopes of its having to be got from here[.] you must arraing its giting down. by y^r. Little Flat if Needed

M^{rs}. Harvey. has been Sick & much reduced tho is about

Yours &c R^d BLACKLEDGE

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r

Washington

⁶⁰Blackledge seems to have used some money which was not his and found himself called on for it before he had sufficient funds to replace it. See Richard Blackledge to William Blount, Maj. Jordans, [July 23, 1788], above, p. 411.

James Iredell to [John Gray Blount]

EDENTON Sept. 13th. 1788

Dear Sir

Governor [Samuel] Johnston and myself received sometime ago a Power of Attorney from Col^o. Palmer⁶¹ which neither of us thought of acting under, but as I have received some late information which induces me to think it may be attended with ill consequences to Col^o. Palmer if nothing should be done for him until he can send out a new Power I have a great desire to interfere so far as far as to transfer the Power given to me to some other Person, and would wish to delegate the authority to Mr. Farris who has lately married M^{rs}. Palmer, and who has lately given me very interesting information—: But as that Gentleman is an entire Stranger to me, though I have heard a very good character of him I shall esteem it as a particular favor if you will be so kind as to oblige me with your opinion in confidence of him; so that I may judge whether it would be proper for me to deligate this important trust to him:

The peculiarity and delicacy of my present situation I hope, will induce you to excuse this liberty, and I sincerely assure you that I shall be happy in every occassion of rendering you any Favour, being,

Dear Sir

Very respectfully,

Your faithful & obedient

Servant

JA. IREDELL

P. S. I should wish at all events that Mr. Farris might know nothing of my writing to you on this subject.

John G. Godwin⁶² to John George [Gray] Blount

[NEWBERN September 21, 1788]

Sir,

I had occasion last Monday to Send my Servant the Bearer, Richard Payne, /a free-man/ to Washington—but as I could not that morning Spare as much money as would pay for his passage in the Stage, I gave Richard a Silver Hat-band (never

⁶¹Probably William Palmer of Bath. See Collet's map for location of his home.

⁶²No definite identification of John G. Godwin has been found.

wore, cost one guinea) to vend, or to offer it to George as a pledge till I might pay him—George call'd at my house—I was ill in bed—my Wife spoke to him from the Chamber & told him that Mr. Godwin wanted to send Richard to Washington and had given him Something to offer George as a security to pay^t. of his passage which when return'd I would pay the money—George said "*Very well Madam,*" & went away to look for Richard who was in quest of him They met & Richard Shew'd George The Hat-band as a Security for his going over—George snatch'd the Band (in *presence* of a M^t Durand, here) and swore [2] he would keep it for what Mr. Godwin owed him which was 30/ for Mr Rankin's going in The Stage sometime ago—refused to carry Richard without money down & again swore he would keep the band—which in a quarter of an hour after (*can be proved*) he offer'd for sale at a Store—

It is true, Sir, that I told George that if Rankin did not pay him, I would see him satisfied—but he (George) has regularly call'd on Rankin for pay^t. & not me—I promised George a trifle for bringing a letter & carrying a few advertisements relative [to] my Dancing School, which I shall give him.—Also—when I visited Washington & had a line to you [3] & Captⁿ. Keas—(but you were both at the Convention) one of the Shafts of my Chair, [c]rack'd, when about 10 Miles from Washington—George took a Small pacage from my Chair on that acc^t. but he never told me what he ask'd for it

The Circumstance of taking my property from my Servant, I find on application to a Lawyer is Actionable, I must take place if not return'd—Your [speaking] to him no doubt, Sir will set him right.

My Servant returns immediately to, Sir, your most
humble Ser^t.

J. G. GODWIN

Sept. 27th 1788

Newbern

J:G:Blount, Esqr.

Addressed: John George Blount Esqr.

Washington

By Richard Payne

Flahavan & Willcox to [John Gray and Thomas Blount]

PHIL^a. Sept 23^d. 1788

Gentlⁿ

According to Mr J. Blunt request, T.F. [Flahavan] made the necessary inquiry Respecting a Kiln to dry Corn, Mess^{rs}. Lewis, who has One has given a plan Which you have enclosed.⁶³—and Mr. Palmer has given a plan N^o. 2. which he has tryed upon the Small Skale & finds a greater heat, & Saving of Wood. than the former Mess^{rs}. Lewis thinks that it is the best, and are to try y^e. Plan N^o 2. next Week—Plan N^o 1 is as thus, they Build a Room Supp^g. 20 feet Square of either Stone or Brick also an entry of 2 or 2½ feet wide, to go to the Chimney which is to be built in the Middle and Carried up as Well as Side Walls, & entry Walls to abt. 5 or 6 feet high as the Builder thinks proper—the Chimney should be large enough to admit 3 or 4 Sticks or logs. abt 3½ to 4 feet long—with a door great [grate?], & ear [air?] pole, to the Chimney—the hollow Space between the Walls as Well up to the Top should be filled With Clay, or Sand, over the Top of the Chimney should be Arched. for fear of an Aver heat of Over it—and from the Side of the Chimney Should Come out a hold to the funnell Which is to go [2] Round and Round as described in Plan N^o 1 the little Funnells are by. 2 Bricks upon their Edge and One over them and under upon ther Flatts. the Supporting Bricks upon their Edge lenth Ways—and the Bricks Over them. Should not Reach but half the thickness of the Brick upon its edge. that Room may be given to the end of the Brick in the next Round of a Funnell and so On untill finished. there is to be Over all a floor to be laid of Brick & Mortar. where the Corn is to be dryed. the Walls Round the Kiln Should be Raised abt 2 feet above the Corn to hinder Acced^{ts} of fire[.] on the Small floor. Should be the Cooling loft When Sufficiently dryed that it may be Shoveld into the Cooling loft. & When Cool. Should be let down into the hopper of the Mill that it may be ground—Over the Kiln & cooling loft your Granary might be placed, with 2 plugs in the Floor, to let the Corn down to be Kiln dryed,—Plann. N^o. 2 is as thus, you have 20 feet Square Room. build a Chimny & Corner [3] With doors Grates &^c to it as in Plan N^o 1 except this difference that you have your Chimney in one Corner, and carried up abt 5 or 6

⁶³A rough diagram was enclosed with this letter. The Blounts were usually interested in new methods and improved machinery.

feet or as high as your walls. and. the Hollow Space fill it with Clay nigh to the Top then. let the Top of your Chimney be Arch-ed from the Corner of your Chimney let there be a Brick upon its edge With a Space between it and the Wall for Smoak & heat to go along Kivered Over with a Brick upon its flatt & So Run along to Nigh the oposite Wall With a Nother Wall and some Spaces & Room for Smoak to pass. so that it Comes Round and round untill it Comes out. at the Opposite Corner it Will be to floored &c like Plan N^o 1. [b]ut it is Much the Most Simplest. and Will not have so Much Wall in it If you cant understand my description I Shall try and Carry one in my head for you I shall Ride ab^t. 10 Miles out of Town, and See a Mill there—We take the liberty of enclosing you a letter [4] for Mr. Arnett. there is 10 Whole Skins of parchment for him. which if he should not be at Home You'll be pleased to deliver them to him—We have nothing New here except the Arrival of the Ship Emperor of Chinae Who is disposing of her Teas by Public Auction. the Green Teas of her Cargoe sell Very Well Owing to the Scarcity All Over the Continent. You have under Neath Our Prices Cur^r-We Are Truly

Sirs Your Ob^t H^l S^t

FLAHAVAN & WILLCOX

Tobacco dull @ 30/

Tallow ditto 6^d P lb to 7^d.

Pork N^oC 6/ @65/—

Corn here 2/8

Beeswax 1/10/

Wheat 5/—

Flaxseed 3/9 to 4/—

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

[PORTSMOUTH, October 9, 1788]

Dear John

I arrived here about two hours ago, after a passage of Nine Weeks from London, & shall move on with all possible Speed to S^o. Quay, where it is my intention to wait a week in expectation that you will send forward my Servant & horses—I also want by the same conveyance the Sum of £130. Sterling to remit immediately to my worthy friend M^r Murdock of London to whose goodness & friendship I am indebted not only for the

happiness of being now so near to all that is dear to me, but for the blessing of Liberty—I promised to remit him instantly & he relies on my promise—therefore I would not receive him to Shun the miseries of everlasting poverty—let me be strictly punctual in this & my every wish will be gratified—If what little property I have will not command so large a Sum sell my Indentures to the highest bidder for thirty years & affix thereto the underwritten signature which I will chearfully acknowledge—I owe to Mess^{rs}. Cowpers (beside the the Sum above mentioned) twenty Guineas for my passage—& shall get from them a [2] a trifle more for expences here—I depend on hearing from you at S^o. Quay at all events & shall wait there accordingly—let the Servant come by way of Tarb^o. present the family in general with my sincere affections & assure them of my extreme anxiety to be with them—

Yours as ever

THO. BLOUNT

Portsmouth 9th October

1788-2 o'Clock P. M—

P. S. If you have already remitted any thing to London since writing me via Scotland you need only add to that Sum enough to make up £ 130—If you have any regard for my future peace of Mind, you cannot disappoint me—I shall reach S^o. Quay on Monday next

Addressed: Mr. John G. Blount

Washington

N^o Carolina

William Blount to John Gray Blount

GREENVILLE Friday October 24th [17]88

I am without Tea in the House [,] and at Court beside Sitgreaves I shall have Company who have been used to it pray send me as much as ½ lb from Attmore's the price is 40/ at New Bern the same qaulity is 50/—I shall not set off for Fayetteville before Thursday afternoon in Court Week and shall expect to see you at Court for beside my dependence on you for Mony to enable me to get to Fayetteville I want to see you on the Business there to be done

Let me know by the Bearers return whether you come up or not.—Tom is arrived at Tarboro.—and I expect him down with Polly—Mrs. Grainger has been so indisposed that Molsey could not visit Halifax and she is yet in a bad Way not very sick but so much so as to keep her Bed constantly

W^m BLOUNT

The Robertson's⁶⁴ are elected and will be at Fayette [2] so that We ought to talk on that Business and We have heretofore talked of an Agent to be Sent out—Gerrard⁶⁵ I suppose will now be out of Business and it may be that He would be glad to get off a bad Bargain in the Matrimonial Way He is said to be about to close against his better Knowledge and I should suppose he would readily embrace Proposals to go out as our Agent—This is for your Consideration—

James Barr to John Gray Blount

PHILADELPHIA 30th Octor 1788

Mr John Blount

Dear Sir

We have Rec^d your favour of the First Instant, & have to advise you that we have Shipped the Remainder of your Rod Iron by Captain Peeters, in a Schooner, Inclosd you have a Bill of Ladeing for the Iron, one Box Sweetmeates Returnd, & the Bundle of safron, please to note one of the Bottles got Broke, & one Wasted in Endeavoring to sell them, we have made the fullest Enquiry Respecting the saffron & can find no Person that will give any thing for it, From appearance of the English Saffron it is not the Same plant as the Sample you Sent, you will find the Sample Inclosed in The Bundle, with some Remarkes—

In the Same Bundle you will find Two paire of Stockings for them you were kind Enough to Lend me, Please advise what we are to do with Mr Perkins Money, Which you Sent our J. S. [James Stuart] when J. B. [James Barr] was with you, the money would not Purchase the Still he had ordered

Almost Ever since J B Return from your State, he has Been Riding Through the Cuntry I got home on the 10 Day after I

⁶⁴James and Elijah Robertson from Davidson County (now in Tennessee). Connor, *Manual*, 586.

⁶⁵Gerrard did make the trip to the West later. No reference to his marriage has been found.

Left you & was Detained 7 hours at Rappahanock & the Same-time at Potomack, with Winds, so that I was not more than 8½ days Preforming the Journey—

Your Bill on Hazard we have Rec^d a few Days ago, we sent it to New York & he sent it Back ordering M^r Bryson to Pay it, who Could [2] not pay, for Some Small time, as the[y] had no mony Here at the Time Please Inform us by next oppertunity what the Depreciation of your money is and Whether you Could Deliver, aboute the one Half Due to us in Tar, at what Price, & the other Half in, Inspected Tobacco, & the price, to be Rec^d at your place in April or May next, We Beg you will answer us as soon as oppertunity offers or By the Post, We are soreley Dunned for all the Ballances we owe, to oure Brittish Creditors, your Giveing us Assistance at that time will Confer on us a Perticular Obligation

At all times we Shall think oure Selves happy In Rendering you any Services in oure Power

We are with Greate Esteem your most

Humble Servts

P. S M^{rs} Barr Desires her Compliments to M^{rs} Blount & Returns her thanks for the Bbl Potatoes which is Very acceptable—J. B

Tar 11/ in greate Demand & Scarce for the fall Ships to Loade with

Pitch 14/ to 15/ Ditto—Ditto Scarce any at Market

Turpentine 12/ to 12/6 Scarce But no greate Demand

Rice—22/6 to 23/ in Demand

Tobacco—30/ Tarbro Inspection at 60 Day notes

Ginsang—3/ to 3/5 as in Quality in Demand—

Deer Skins 1/5, Beeswax 22^d to 2/1 Tallow 8^d. hides 7^d—
Trade Dull

P. S. J Barr thinks you might have made a greate Deale of money, If you Could have sent a good trusty Person to Frankland State, to Purchase Ginsong⁶⁶ If you had thought of it in time as I Suppose the Cuntry affords it as well as Kentuckey. RB write me that If he had attended to that article he Could have Purchased this Season 20,000 Lbs of it at ^d18 Per Lb and 8^d per pound will Transport it to this place [3] and paid for the whole in goods, at his own Price If you Should approve of doing any thing in that article next season you may write us & Perhaps we may Joine you in the Prosecution of the Scheme if You Could

⁶⁶Ginseng, a plant which grows wild in the southern states. It was used for medicinal purposes. The adventure did not work out very well. See Stuart & Barr to John Gray & Thomas Blount, Philadelphia, December 12, 1788.

digest the plan & Get a saving Industrious Person, that would undertake [it] & you to Gourantee his Conduct, the distance to transport by Land ought to be Known & What that would Cost—the proper time for Diging it is September to as Late in november as the Root can be found, If the Root is never Washed the Better, Strung on Threads and Dryed in the aire without Either Fire or Sunshine in the manner that Tobacco is Cured when Perfectly Dry Rubed Cleane with a Brush,—Perhaps C [Charles] Gerard would undertake (*has he Industry Soficient*) He has Both Honesty & Integerity soficient for to undertake—

The onley way would be to hire A number of hands to dig & Purchase it Green from them, & one person to see to the Careing under his own Care; 3 Lbs Green makes one Dry, In the Neighbourhood of Pittsburgh, the[y] told me a good hand will Dig from 15 lbs to 40 Lbs in a Day The[y say] the use [usable] is aboute 4 Intches wide & 5 Long—

Suppose adventure to be £ 600

Sells for a Profit 3 for 1 1200

£ 1800

Transporting goods oute 50

Amount £ 1750

this Sum will Purchase
upwards of 23 M Lbs— at 1/6 per pound, this when Brought
here will Sell at 3/ per pound in all Likelihood

£ 3450

Suppose it Costs to Bring it to Market

& all other Charges 1 P Lb.... £ 1150)

)1750

First Cost of Goods 600)

£ 1700

J BARR

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r

Merchant

Washington

Per Capt Peters

*Thomas Blount to [John Gray Blount]*Tarbo. 6th Nov^r. 1788

Sir.

The Cargo of the Tarbo. Packet⁶⁷ is received agreeable to Invoice, except a deficiency of 8½ Bush^{ls}. in the Salt—and by her I send you nineteen Casks Flaxseed, containing 201½ Bush^{ls}. 1hh^d. Tob^o., & Sundry Goods to the Amo^t. of £194.8.0. of all which you have an Invoice inclosed—the Stocking Loom is also on board The large red Cloak was delivered Sometime ago to M^{rs}. Blount—for the Major's [Reading Blount] Sunday Breeches you will find, among other Goods 2½ y^{ds}. of our best & handsomest Corduroy—and for Jacob's great Coat we have nothing better than the blue Coating, or Drab Cloth, which you will also see among the Goods sent. Trimmings we have not. Cap^t. Ben is directed to call on Thomas Blackledge with an order from his Brother Richard, for Twenty Barrels Corn for Maj^r. Blount—The Staves will not be ready—[2] The extreme lowness of the water obliges me to send Howell's flat as low as Greeneville as a Lighter to the Tarbo. Packet.—

Y^{rs}.

THO BLOUNT

P. S

The Boat, besides the Cargo above mentioned, brings the hh^d. Tob^o. you sent the note for.

*[William Blount] to [John Gray Blount]*Fayette-Ville Thursday
November 6th 1788

The Assembly formed on Monday. [Alexander] Martin & [John] Sitgreaves are Speakers. Gov^r. Caswell would not accept. I believe there will not be a new Convention called by this Assembly. Willie Jones I think is inflexible. [Samuel] Johnston will probably be continued Governor. No Party Spirit has yet appeared openly on any Subject but the public papers are not yet got over a Reading in both Houses. The Indians are troublesome and formidable to the Holston People 42 were lately killed

⁶⁷The "Tarborough Packet" ran between Washington and Tarboro about once a week. It seems to have been owned by the Blounts. Thomas Blount wrote John Gray (February 4, 1793, John Gray Blount Papers), "You may send up the Packet as soon as you please I shall be able to make a load for her—"

at one Station or Fort. Sevier⁶⁸ has been taken and brought over to Burke but has since escaped and his Neighbours say is gone among the Indians. Many Inquiries are daily made after you and to be sure you never had so great a Chance to be a great Man as at present in the [House of] Commons.

You will have to pay Postage for this from New Bern.

Thomas Blount to [John Gray Blount]

Tarb°. 7th Nov^r. 1788

Dr. Sir,

Gerrard comes down to receive your instructions relative to the Cumberland Business, but I am fearful you will find him unwilling to stay there so long as you may wish—the reason is, he is on the brink of Matrimony,—If you think of Settling with him for past Services let me know your mode of doing it—I shall give Jacob such a Letter to Cooper as I think will be most likely to induce him to come forward—let me know by Gerrard what kind of Produce you want & what prices to give—

My hope of borrowing Tob°. to ship to London is at an end—therefore pray send such articles to Norfolk as will command the Cash, & direct the person to whom you Consign it to remit at least £80 Sterling as soon as possible to William Murdock for my acco^t. I am so anxious about the matter that if I could know when your Vessell would arrive at Norfolk [2] I would go there myself to see it done—pray send enough & oblige

Yours truly

THO. BLOUNT

Abner Neale to John Gray Blount

Novem^r. 10th. 1788.—

Sir/

I have been with Cap^t. Wade this Morning who has been for those last three Voyages to St. Croix and will now give you his information, he says that on your Arrivial you must speak to some Merch^t. to let you enter the Lumber in his Name as this

⁶⁸John Sevier, who had formed the State of Franklin or Frankland.

is best, altho you may enter in your own after which you may Make your entry as 3 4 or 5 times as much Lumber as you really have, he entered last voyage 60^m- and had only 10 or 12. he then spoke to the Searcher and told him that he had entered a quantity more than he had to whome he gave 16 Dollars and he conducted the matter for him gave him a Certificate and assisted in running 6 Hh^d. Sugar, on your entry you pay 5 P C^t on their Valuation which Valuation he says is very low he sold his permission to bring away Sugar for 75 P^r Eight and was in a small Schooner—the prices as follows, Lumber Pitch pine 15 doll^s. 6 Hh^d. Staves & Head Tobacco 4 to 5 dolls 18 d^o. Shingles 2½ ditto Corn 5 to 6 Bits. Peas 10 Bits & 12. Live Stock very high particulary Poultry. I wish you could have both Vessells ready to go together⁶⁹ as I am fearful your Cap^t. you send will Make some [2] other Port for the sake of the Comⁿ. [commission?] pray cant you Load Old Pendletons little Schooner on your own terms almost, as he wants to send her out to sell and I can have the Management of her, he will want the Whole Freight here to fitt her say half a Bolt Oznab^s. [oznaburgs] to X [cross] bind his Sails & Provisions &^c. for the Voyage if you can you may have her, she is the Schooner that the Braggs formerly own'd; I wish Milly⁷⁰ to come Home Tomorrow if Possible as I am Obliged to your Father to be at Peters's Vendue on Thursday, next and must start on Wednesday Morning—I can be ready any moment after Saturday next & much wish to go this Voyage if you can make it worth my while which I have no doubt you can[.] I shall want you to put in something for a small Venture for me, and if Pendletons Schooner goes round can 10 or 12 Shoats with my Trunk &^c. and perhaps 30 or 40 bus^{ls}. Peas to put under the Births; and I believe I can get a Negroe to carry which Com^{rs}. will help out some, I have not as yet informed any person of the Voyage but am certain I can get a Recommendation from Wade to the Merch^t. who assists him there which will be of service [3] A Brig arived here a day or two past which Boarded a Wrecked Brig in the Gulf lat^d. 36°.—she had a Green Stern Yellow or Bright sides loaded with Pitch Pine lumber a Heavy Deck load on, Both Masts Cut away & the Main mast gone, the Boom & Mainsail saved also the Foresail *New*, one Old Jebb & Main Staysail saved with both anchors & Cables, I am fearful from Acc^{ts}. of the Pilots she is Eastwoods Brig,

⁶⁹Neal was planning a voyage to the West Indies for the Blounts.

⁷⁰His wife.

they took off a Black Bitch the only living thing they could find[.] found no Papers, she was a very full Built Brig with her quarter deck Paid [painted] with Spanish Brown & Tar, the Mainsail as pretty good & the Fore & Foretopsail which they saved is New. they suppose that the People left her in the Boat, as there was none with her; The Twine I have sent, I am as usual

ABNER NEALE.

Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire

Abner Neale to John Gray Blount

NEW BERN Nov^r. 16th. 1788.—

Sir,

Yours P the Stage Rec^d. and you may depend I set out Tomorrow with Pendleton some how or other, tho have not seen him tho in two days, pray carry down with you the Instruments Necessary & Books, together with a quire of Paper & some Stores; ask Sister Polly for some Rice as I have been so hurry'd that I could not get any ready myself. and do you carry what Stores you think will be Necessary as I cant lay them in here except some Tongues & Beel together with a little Old Stingo⁷¹, &c. for my own use, but you know that there will be many other things Necessary say Sugar, Coffee, Candles, &c. &c. you must Excuse me for pretending to direct you what is Necessary but perhaps in the hurry of Business you may Neglect something, and am perswaded you [2] you would not wish her to go without every Necessary, I will take 1^{lb} Sail Twine with me, send some Sail Needles, as I like always to have something of this kind in my Trunk in readiness, many other small things I shall carry of Service, but not worth mentioning, Books and Instruments I shall much want and pray dont neglect to send them. I hope to be at the Vessell early in Tuesday at any rate.

I am with Respect &c.

ABNER NEALE

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Washington

⁷¹A strong drink.

*Abner Neale to John Gray Blount*OCCACOCK Novem^r 28th. 1788

Dear, Sir

I arived here yestrday Evening & met Jack Wallace above the Swash who bro^t. us in the Upper Road, where we now lay and I was yesterday on board of Cap^t. Webster who was taking in some Lumber at Wodstock or a little Creek below there, he says that he will be ready to Sail in 10 days & let me beg of you not to let him lay any time longer than Necessary as I am fearful that I shall be very tired of Waiting at St. Croix, where I shall make all possible dispatch for; and shall send the Schooner [2] back as quick as possible, and depend on the Sloop to bring me back. the Schooner is very deep & leaks bad (tho' I think she is safe) & this Milly need not know[.] pray send me some Venture in the Sloop as I have none in the Schooner, if any thing, should happen with respect to my Consens[.] Milly, has the Keys of all my Papers and I must request that you will attend to it and do the best you can for my Interest in my absence, you will find the papers all Sorted & libeled [labeled] except a few, and those you can soon look over, I think I shall be best at Washington if you can do any thing [3] for me that I can make out to maintain my Family with which I hope you can do and perhaps Sitgreaves will Buy or Rent my Plantation at a Generous Price. I here send you a Power of Attorney to Act for me but for the want of form am not shure it is full enough at any rate I want you to take upon yourself the Management of my affairs, and do whatever you think best; in case of any Accident happening to me, I have left something like a Will tho' no Witness to it and am not shure (as I dont well recollect how it is) that I should like it at [4] any rate. I wish you or Billy [William Blount] to Sell as much as will Pay my Just Debts & the remainder give my Wife and Son equally something in manner as I have directed, (*I think there is enough of this.*)

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr.

Washington

[5]

LOWER ROAD Nov. 28 1788

Sir/ There is a letter on board of Jack Williams for me who went up to New Bern to day which he says is respecting a Negroe fellow, I suppose from Major Taylor about his Negroe fellow, Billy McClure, if he has Wrote for him to be Sold, as I wrote him some time past I thought he might get 70 or 80 £ for

him, I wish to get him if you are Obliged to Sell that Scoundrell Harry to obtain him, tho I have for this two years past depended on Ten Barrels of Pork which your Father ought to give (with Interest) for the P^t. land near Peteres and which I was offered for it & he told me to keep it for him, This Ten bb^s. Pork I always depended to buy Billy with.—I suppose that Taylor has now determined to Sell him and I hope Cheap as he has my Wench Juno [*sic*] to Wife and is a Trusty Fellow I dont like to part with him if I can help it. perhaps Old Jones of Philad^a. may be ill natured enough to be Troublesome if I should not return soon and attach my property if you think so try & Secure it to yourself some how so that my Wife and Child may be benefitted hereafter as I care not for myself so they dont suffer, [6] and this I trust you will attend to at any rate, sell me some of the Western Land or some way that I be in you[r] Debt enough to leave them something Hansome: any way I care not how its done.—

I have heard since I left home that the Man I sent the Ejectment against would not appear and defend the Suit[.] in this Case hope Mr. [James] Irdell this last Court Obtain'd Judgm^t. in my behalf if so please as quick as possible get the Necessary Papers out of the Office and get some of you[r] Mattamuskeet Acquaintance to take Possession for me, and pleas write to Mr. Irdell and get him secured in the Ejectm^t. which must be bro^t. against Cason Gibbs or his Tenant, as M^t. Jennett informs me that he is determined to stand a Suit before he will give his up, after telling me that he would give up, if I recoverd the one that is now determ^d.[.] the Ejectment need not be bro^t. untill my return but I wish Irdell secured in my Interest whenever it is. 29th. we are just going out all well and Cap^t. Wallace carries us out. I am with Esteem &c.

ABNER NEALE

William Blount to John Gray Blount

FAYETTE VILLE December 4th 1788

Dear Sir,

Inclosed is a Resolution respecting the Martineque Affair it contains every thing that has been done respecting it. This General Assembly would be supremely happy in my Opinion if they

could see with certainty the Ruin of Caswell you and myself and with us our Friends—Within these few days much has been said by Gallaway & M^c Dowells about the Indian Treaty Mony. This Morning I procured from a Friend Mony and paid up the Balance £596 reported last Session to be due from me as *William Blount*, relying on the Mony due me for the Tea. from Toomer and Estis and for the Linnen from [Abner] Neale to replace it in Time to my Friend and that I will replace that by some other Means by the next Assembly. how God knows! For the Balance that is reported to be in my Hands as Agent of Indian Treaties I have hoped they would give me untill the next Session of Assembly to settle the Transaction, [2] but I now begin to believe they will not altho they have allowed similar Indulgences to sundry others—The Committee of Revenue have this Morning upon receiving the Report of the last Session as concurred with discovered as they have allowed me a Commission and claimed to themselves the Profit on the Sales of the Goods that I cannot be liable for the Mony due from Ward and Ogg and seem to be disposed again to state the accounts anew—and declare me positively liable. I wonder when they will please themselves in a Statement for they have already made two on their Journals at length—Inclosed is the Report on Blackledges affair—I wrote you by Arnett and informed you that the Committee of Revenue had agreed to report unanimously that Blackledge should be allowed upwards of 30'000 lb for the Tobacco Sent & the Sugar & Coffee sent to Hadules Point and so they had but before they did report Col. Leech laid his Accounts before the Committee to whom his Memorials had been refered and in Support of his Accounts it is said by the Gentlemen of his Committee that he [3] (Leech) laid before the Committee a Manifest of the Cargo on Board the Flag in the Hand Writing of Richard Blackledge in which was mentioned that the Sugar & Coffee & Tobacco were shiped by Blackledge to Tom Clark. The Committee immediately supposed or chose to suppose that there had been some private Agreement between the Parties for their own Emolument instead of its being shiped for a general Benefit to the Officers &c. in Captivity. I answered some Tobacco had been shiped as Donations to witt to Coleman & Gerrard and I believed to others and was not included in the Charge of Blackledge but to no purpose as the Report will show.—I go from this to Wilmington on Business respecting the Estate of Caleb & Will Grainger, & my own and

must I see clearly at all Events go Shortly to Georgia about this damned Indian Treaty Affair. I wil close for this Evening,

Your's

W^m. BLOUNT

Addressed: John Gray Blount
Washington

William Blount to [John Gray Blount]

FAYETTEVILLE Dec^r. 5th 1788

Dear Sir,

I am just favoured with yours by Whitney. I immediately went in serch of Nesbit one of Montgomery's Exor^s. [executors] but he had gone Home. But while He was here He and myself spoke on the Subject of the Judgment saying on his part, that the Mony was to come in to his Hands for the Use of one of Montgomery's base born Children and that it was not immediately wanting provided the Interest could be insured to him adding that the Law would not allow Salters⁷² Exr^s. to pay it unless at their own risque. I answered that the Exor^s. of Salter of which I was one would assure him of the Interest if He would let the Execution rest for one year at least to which He agreed and the Necessary Writings were to have passed between us. Thus far for the Conversation. Now tonight I have wrote to him by one of his Colleagues and have assured [him] very fully that [2] the Interest shall be paid that no part of the Judgment can be paid before the Next Session and then only a part and that I depend He will let the Execution rest accoringly. I believe he will, he is an old Acquaintance of mine and a very good Character—

The Committee on my Indian Affairs can't please themselves in Report so that I suppose they will Leave the Report as concurred at Tarboro as they found it so that it will become the duty of the Treasurer⁷³ without further Order to sue me disagreeable as it may be both to him & myself but as they have taken to themselves the profit upwards of seven hundred pounds and alowed me a Commission on the sale they begin now to suppose that it is doubtful whether they can recover from me and

⁷²Probably Robert Salter.

⁷³John Haywood, a very warm personal friend of the Blounts.

wish me to assume the debt and take my own time three years have been mentioned which I have absolutely refused to do.

I have not asked them for any further Time to collect the Mony from Ward and if I was I am sure it would [3] be refused—The Spirit of Persecution still prevails against me—Pray keep in view the Election of as many Blounts as possible for the next year—I go for Wilmington in C^o. with Ben Hawkins in the Morning leaving things to work their Course for the day without me

Pray inquire what Molsey may want and supply her for I suppose She will be enough dissatisfied at my Absence—Very late at Night having wrote fifteen Letters I am your's &^c

W^m. BLOUNT

Reading Blount to [John Gray Blount]

BROAD CREEK Decm^r 8th.1788

Sir/

Yours come to hand this day so that I have not had it in my power to know what will be wanted for the Sloop more than she will have on board To day, the hole is now full & part of the deck load on she has from me 24340 of Boards & Scantling and 53825 of shingles. my boat is now going down and on her return I shall Know how many more she will want to Compleat her Cargo with what you send down—I am a fraid she [will] want lightening at the Bar after taking 5000 of Scantling more of Webster[.] she draws 9 feet aft now & 7 forward, she loads aft as much as the schooner does forward; you must send provision for She cant have any thing from heare

Loivrance will leave this tomorrow[————]or may do, so: Peterses boat is up for plank which about take all that I can raise and [with] water scarce I can [not?] saw &^c as much—I want two dozen buttons for my fine [cra]vat any sort will do if not two [too] good

If the wind serves Webster may leave [this] to morrow, Tho he will want your answ^r [whic]h may be heard by sun rise

Yours

READING BLOUNT

[2] I think he had best wait in the Rivr untill the Rald Sloop come[s] down as he has only one Cable and that only a nin[e] inch one, I shall detain her till wednesday unless I heare from you sooner—if the set of my shoes is done send them by Moses and without they are much large[r] than Common I wish you to apply to Rhoads and get me as much leather as will make four pair of shoes such as will fit Britton the shoes he has made will only do for the wenches [women slaves] Tho they must do for such of the men as can get them on,

Yours

READING BLOUNT

William Blount to John Gray Blount

WILMINGTON Thursday Dec^r. 11th 1788

Dear Sir,

Since writing you from Fayette my room at Dekeyzers where I lodged took fire and burnt a part of my Clothes of which I had none to spare as well as a part of John P. Williams who was my fellow Lodger and the flames got to such a height that it was with much difficulty the House was saved. It was by the Carelessness of Dekeyzers' own Servants.—

On the next Evening (Sunday) I was riding in Col. Brown's Chair when the Horse took fright, rant the Chair over a very high Stump & tossed me full ten feet I think with little [or] no Injury. I arrived here last Night and this Morning have been called on by Cap^t. Smith late of the Brig Polly, who says he arrived here a few days past and that immediately on his Arrival he wrote you himself and forwarded a Letter to you from Duncan both [2] by J. B. Ashe who I suppose must have passed on through Greenville from whence I suppose you must have received the Letters.—He left Jamaica on the 17th November and left the Brig there fitting out for the Bay of Honduras to return to Jamaica[.] Smith Supposes She would be three Months on the Voyage—Duncan not to go in her but to stay in Jamaica untill She returns—Smith says Duncan he thinks does not intend ever to let her return to Carolina having heard him say She drew too much Water for the Carolina Trade and that believing He never would return to Carolina was the Reason he left her, He also says that Duncan repeatedly offered to sell to him

(Smith) his half of the Sloop and give him his own time of payment & on his declining to purchase that Duncan expressed his Wish that he (Smith) should come to Carolina, get the Command of the Sloop and bring her into some one of the out Ports⁷⁴ of Jamaica [3]—Smith adds that Duncan told him he had made you a Remittance of ten Hogshead of Rum to the Hands of Peter Mallett of this place, that upon his Arrival here he inquired of Peter Mallett & Mallett answered that Mr. Brice had brought in from Jamaica ten Hogsheads Jamaica Spirit and lodged them in his Hands to sell on Acct. of Mr. Duncan and to ship the Nett Proceeds in Lumber to Jamaica to Mr Duncan

This Morning I have seen Mr. Mallett Myself & spoke with him on the Subject he says the Rum is sold but that He has as yet made no Remittances and will not make any for some Weekes to come & seems to be desirous that We should get it if We please that is beside a desire to serve us (which I believe) I suppose He would be glad of an Excuse to hold it untill it could be [4] called out by the tedious process of Law.—If it is attached it would be best to have it done in the County Court which sits here the first Monday in January. At this Instant Mallett has again called on me & says the Sales will be large odd of four hundred pounds that he does not consider that He ought to pay it in Mony as he has sold it for Lumber as directed by Mr. Brice but in Case of a Recovery He will pay the very Article to wit the ten Hogsheads Jama-a Rum—He wishes it not to be understood that He has ever spoke to any person on the Subject except to Captain Smith and that in answer to his Inquiries in Consequence of what Duncan had told him respecting his Shiping Rum to his Hands on your Acct.—

Or if Duncan is in Arrears to you would it be better for T Blount to go to Jamaica to meet the Brig on her Return from the Bay. There are several Vessels here bound to Jamaica [5] Upon a third Interview with Mallett He assures me that he will make no Shipment to Duncan without giving us previous Notice so that if you determine to attach it may be done at any future day. I cannot now say when I shall be home for being here and

⁷⁴American vessels carrying illicit goods or entering islands where there was a restriction against American vessels often sought less guarded ports, where they would be met by West Indian traders. See Keith, "Relaxations in the British Restrictions on the American Trade," p. 5.

at no Expence I shall endeavour to close as much of the Business I have at this place as possible

Pray inquire into and Relieve the Wants of my family

You's &c.

W^m. BLOUNT

Addressed: John Gray Blount

By Mr. McCabe favored

Stuart & Barr to John Gray & Thomas Blount

PHILAD^a. Decem. 12th. 1788

Mess. John G & T Blount

Dear Sirs—

We have received your favour Covering Invoice & Bills of Lading for sundries per the Favorite Cap^t Jones all of which we have disposed of excepting the Cotton⁷⁵ which we could get no price offered for it and in consequence we have returned it to you by the Schooner, unless that article is cleaned from the Seed it will bring no price as our People no [know] nothing about the cleaning it. Your Tar & Turpentine we have sold to good advantage and for a higher price than that Article has brought in our Market for two years past, the same day it was sold for 14/ and today it wont bring more than 13/ Pr Barrel, your Flax seed we have sold as high a price as have been given in this Market this Season.

We have with great difficulty sent you 2 Tons Rod Iron, it is in great demand, Please observe that there is only 3 kinds Slit from which all kinds of Nails⁷⁶ are made[.] at times they rool some thinner when they are not too much engaged, for the Smallest kind of Nails, at the time our J. S. sent you the Rods you complain of, no others could be procured, and only sent you a small Supply, the amount of sundries Shiped, you will see by the Invoice, by which you will see what remains in our [2] hands, which shall be remitted agreeable to your Order as soon as the money comes in.

How to remit the money we are at a loss as nothing but light Guineas can be procured here and with a Bill there is consid-

⁷⁵This is the first reference to the shipment of cotton, which was soon to become an important part of their exports.

⁷⁶By this time the nailery was well established. See [William Blount to John Gray Blount], Greenville, [June] 22, 1788, above, p. 405. They seemed to be able to secure a fairly large supply of nail rod from Stuart & Barr.

erable risque, but you will have time to direct this matter as you see fit before the money is due, we cant fully make out your direction for Murdock, the last word of your direction we cant make to Satisfaction & it wont do to remit at random.—

All we have Shipped to you we have and must pay the Cash for immediately and we can have no relief from the Sales under 45 days as you will see, your Nail rod we have from 13 houses the demand is so great for them. on Sunday last our Brig Joanna Capt. Geor M Callmant saild from this place for St Andero in Spain we have ordered her to return to your place for a load of Naval Stores, she may be with you early in April, she is but a small Vessell and will carry a Little upwards of 900 Barrels we wish you to procure a Cargo for her say 100 Barrels of good stone Pitch and the remainder in good Tar let them be well coopered and free from Water, whitewashed & Nail'd, with as many good Barrel Staves as she can stow with the Cargo, Please have all ready that she may meet with no detention, Assist our Capt. with what Lighters he may want [3] and give him all the dispatch in your power by which you will lay us under an obligation, we hope our sending this Vessel to you will be agreeable and beneficial as it will be helping you to pay on the Spot with the produce of your Country, you will therefore procure it of a good Quality and on as low terms as possible, if you cant undertake to load her, we request you will write us immediately that we may provide for her. We are fully assured that you will do all in your power for us, we are still owing some money in Europe for which we are greatly press'd.

The Gensang Scheme our J B[arr] wrote you of we find to be a very precar[ious] article to deal in, only one house ha[s-] [p]urch^d here this Season altho there is and has been 4 Vessels fitted for the East Indies, at present no person will purchase & great quantity's at Market, large Sums of money will be lost on that article, we therefore decline all thoughts of a Speculation in that Article We are with Greate Respect your most

Humble Serts

STUART & BARR

[Marginal Note] Note the stone the schooner is Ballasted with if Burned will make good lime

S & B—

Addressed: Mess. John G & T. Blount

Merchts

Washington

Fav^d. by Cap^t. Jones

*Richard Dobbs Spaight to John Gray Blount*⁷⁷

NEW BERN 13th. December 1788

Dear Sir,

I can offer you no better apology for my not answering your's of the 27th. Nov^r. at an earlier day, than that a tedious and painful confinement has made me extremely negligent. I did not send the rye to Simpson's for you, because I thought, before you could get it, and have your ground put in proper order for sowing it, it would be too late especially if the winter should prove severe—so that you might probably lose the seed and your labour into the bargain.

My method of sowing rye, and which from the experience I have, seems to answer very well, is, if my ground has been ploughed in the fall or spring before, that is borne a crop of wheat or oats, to give it a good ploughing, and then Harrow it as smooth as possible then I sow my rye & plough it in, If the land is good a bushel and a half to the acre, if poor two bushels is not too much—If you sow an old field the ground ought to be ploughed & cross ploughed, before harrowing, so that the sod may be perfectly broke—The time of putting it in the ground that I think best is, if for pasture between the 20th. Aug^t. & 20th. Sep^t. and the earlier the better within that period, if sown before the 20 Aug^t. the sun is so powerfull that it is apt to injure it—if for seed merely between the 20th. octobr^r. & 20 Nov^r. or first of Decem^r. when sown within the time mentioned it is not so apt to blast as when sown earlier—Some [2] Some people will condemn my quantity of seed as too much, & my ploughing and harrowing as superfluous—the ploughing is necessary to

⁷⁷This letter gives an interesting insight into the attempts of the North Carolina plantation owners to use experimental methods in crop production. There are many references to hams and pork, and enough to indicate the possession of a fairly large number of cattle, but there does not seem to have been as keen an interest in animal husbandry as in plant improvement.

break up the sward which the crop grass has formed in the course of the summer, and the harrowing still more so in order to lay the ground level that an equal distribution of seed may take place, which cannot be the case when sowed upon a rough furrow—Some people think a bushel of seed to an acre sufficient and so it is provided the ground be very rich and the seed put in early—but I have not such ground to put my rye in, and if I had I would not put it there—and I am sure it will not answer on poor land, for I never knew a thin crop of rye a good one—My opinion on this subject is that of a bushel of rye be sown on an Acre of land of our common soil it may perhaps produce from Seven to ten bushels—but if an half bushel of seed is added which requires no more labour, the Crop will be from twelve to fifteen thus you get by the same labour & off the same land fifty per cent by the additional seed—the cause of it I think is this, Rye where sown in the comon broad cast way on our indifferent land tillers very little, and seldom has more than 2, 3 & 4 stalks to a grain, which is not sufficient—/when only a bushel is sown/ to cover the land & shade it from the Sun, so as to preserve a sufficient degree of moisture for its support, it is from this principle I would sow two bushels to the Acre on very poor land—My Crop this last year was pretty good I had sixteen acres on which I put 20 bushels seed, from what I have already threshed out I expect it will yield me 250 bushels, I thought it two thin & am confident I should have had a better crop if 4 bushels more of seed [3] seed had been put in the ground—and had only one bushel been Used I don't think I should have reaped more than 150 or 160 bushels. The year before my Ryes was sown in the common way, and from four bushels on four or five arces I only reaped 30 bushels. tho' the land I had in Rye this year was rather better adapted to that grain than that of the year before. When we have the pleasure of meeting we shall be able to go into the matter more extensively, than is possible by letter—Please to present my Compts to M^{rs}. Blount.

I am with Regard & Esteem

Dear Sir, Your most Ob^t. Serv^t.

RICH^d. D. SPAIGHT

J. G. Blount Esq^r.

Addressed: John G Blount

Washington

Favored by M^r. Attmore

*Elijah Robertson to [William Blount]*SALSBOROUGH⁷⁸ TOWN [December 25, 1788]

Dear Colo/

finding it out of my power to wate on you a greeable to my promise have Implyd [employed] me Troy to do my bisness with you[.] the articles betwn us will be han[d]ed you by the young man on the prorusill of it you will find I am to devid[e] the grants in to five devisions and you are to take choyce Sir you will please to Send my porpotion of mr Nashes grands [grants] it being one fiveth the devision on Ither [either] yours or mr Nashs are not meterel [material] Send me Such as you think proper also Colo Redin [Reading] a greable to hour [our] Conversation at faattville [Fayetteville] and if you can Conven- antly Send me 100 Dollars. I shall Take it as grate favor dun me [2] I hope to See you at Cumberland Next Spring but if not be a Shurd you will be amember from the County Tennessee.⁷⁹ I am Der Sir with much a Steam and Regard yours

ELIJAH ROBERTSON

25 of december -88

*Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount*TARB^o. 31^{ts}. Dec^r. 1788—

Dr. Sir,

The quantity of Corn you want for Simpson cannot be immediately procured on any terms; nor at all for any thing but Paper Money in hand at 17/6, or. the promise of hard in 3 or 4 Months a 13/4—Molasses, tho' a good Article, cannot be sold by wholesale for Corn at any price—The amazing scarcity of Salt has obliged people to feed their hogs much longer than they intended, & consequently there will not be so great a quantity of Corn at our Market as was expected—so that I think it would be well to buy now as much as you think we shall have occasion for in the course of the Season—

The Boat went from here yesterday Evening & will come to you fully loaded—I sent you £30 yesterday by Jacob—

⁷⁸Salisbury.⁷⁹Tennessee County was formed from Davidson County in 1788. It had a short existence but sent representatives to the North Carolina assembly in 1789. David Leroy Corbitt, *The Formation of the North Carolina Counties, 1663-1743* (Raleigh: State Department of Archives and History, 1950), 204.

The necessity of disposing of a part of our real or personal Estate I have long felt, & knowing that we possessed no property that would more readily command Cash than my neuse Land, I yesterday impowered you to dispose of it in such [2] manner as would best answer our purpose—I will also delegate to you a Similar power over any thing I possess: for to be in Debt, is to me the most disagreeable situation in life—as to allowances for any supposed difference between price & value—I will not accept any—you are to recollect that my part of Stock in Trade is yet to be thrown in—

I shall at all times be ready to go wherever you please to direct me, & shall have particular pleasure in going to Jamaica at the time you mention—I will bring that Scotch rascal to a fair settlement or kill him—Col^o. Philips is desirous that you should Store the whole of the public Tob^o. & wishes to be informed if you can do so & the price, that he may know what sum of money to retain in his hands for Freight, Commissions, Storage &c.—the quantity is between 3 & 400 hh^{ds}.—let me know by first opportunity.—He has promised to give me Money for 5 hh^{ds}. Tob^o. if he has as much in hand, which cannot be ascertained till he gets this information—[3] I have yet three of the 5 hh^{ds}. to buy which, as no person can now give all Money, I hope to get[it] soon—My love to Sister Polly & I will send her the Pepper, if to be had in Town by Simpson—

Y^{rs}. truly

THO. BLOUNT

I will give you a title, when called on, for any property of mine, you may please to dispose of—for you[r] great attention to the payment of Murdock I thank you *most Sincerely*—I am thereby releived from the greatest anxiety I ever felt

T. B.

Addressed: Mr. John G. Blount

Washington

Fav^d. by Mr. Loomis

Abner Neale to John Gray Blount

St. CROIX January 1st. 1789—

Dear Sir/

I arived here the 14th. of last Month. with the Schooner Mary all well; on my Arrivial every Merch^t. that deals in the Lumber

way here, were either at the W^t. end of this Island or at Tortola a small Island near this, so that I was Obliged to lay 6 days before I began to Unload, and on the Merchants coming to Town I was only offerd 12 doll^s. p m. for the Lumber; but a Friend of mine advised me to advertise it which I did and began to land[.] soon sold apart at 16 doll^s. and then had an offer for the rem^r. at 14. except the Scantling which I have since got off at nearly 13. as you wil see by the Acc^t. Sales.

I am very sorry to inform you that there is not yet any Sugar to be had; the Crops being very backward for want of Rain, have been under the Necessity of Shipping you Rum and that at a high price, tho' its last years Crop; their Sugar will not come in here before the last of Feb^y or 1st. of March: I expected the Sloop would have been here er'e this[.] when she Arives if I cant Obtain 15 dolls for her Cargoe which I dont expect; and the Cap^t. is agreed I will Run [2] down to Cape Francois and bring you home Molasses Taffia & perhaps Brandy, there is here a Mr. Burling of my Acquaintance formerly, he lives at the Cape and is just from there says that Lumber will no doubt bring from 16 to 20 dolls if shipt from Carolina, and that the Charges on the Vessell not much if any more than here, you will find what a Situation Business is done in here; on examing the Dis^{ns}. [disbursements] & Port Charges &c. you will no doubt be frightend at the Am^t. of them, but consider the permission to carry off Sugar will reduce that considerably; I suppose it will Sell for as much as will pay all the Dutys at any rate & perhaps part of the dam'd unjust Fees, as there is not one of those Officers that dont take double there [their] just due and no way of helping it, I have advanced Cossa 8 doll^s. and dont know whether right or not however he could not do without it, and you will find him a Man not fit to Command in my Opinion[.] I have hurried him all that I could and he only last night finished Balasting there is a Number of unnecessary expences in my Opinion, which this Man makes however you can best judge; a Mr. Hunt of this place has wrote Mr. Blackledge respecting a Bill sent him he request[s] that you will make some enquiry & urge R. B. to Write him [3] if this Vessell should be fortunate in getting Home think she may meet me at the Cape & advise Ellison to Sell her she will I think bring a great Price at the Cape, and it will be advantageous to me to have the Commissions on her sales, if you could get long Red O. Hh^d. Staves for the Cape Market Mr. Burling says they will [bring] 40 doll^s. P^m. & Herrings 6 to 8 doll^s.

however do as you think best. I am now living on Shore which will be very Expensive but hope it will not be long ere the Sloop comes, and be assshured I want much to get home. W. O. [white oak] Staves & Heading & R. O. [red oak] Staves will do well here about March & I have no Objections to coming here then if you will have a Load & good Vessell, prepared, on my Arival I think a Cargoe might be put in to advantage, from your place. I have sent a Kegg of Tamerinds tell Sister Polly to divide them & send Milly half—The Bill of Disbⁿ. &^c. I am truly ass[h]amed of tho' out of my power to help it, when we meet I hope I shall be able to convince you of the Justness of my charges tho' I cant say the same of all. I here send you Acc^t. Curr^t. in Major Blounts Name as Cossay's Acc^t. was to him, Acc^t. Sales & Port Charges & Bill disbⁿ. also—[4] I shall have a balance in my hands after disposing of the Permission which I will lay out in Sugar if there should be any before Webster leaves this otherwise will take it to the Cape, & lay it out there,.- Keep my Boy Tom in some of your Vessells I have charged nothing for him, & if he gets Victuals & Cloath I shall be Satisfied. pray send my Dog *New Bern* home as he is a favourite. I have sent him in the Schooner—

My Love to all & beg you to do the best you can for me, as I feel myself Poor. pray try R. B. for the Batchelors Creek Mills for me.—

I am with due Respect

ABNER NEALE

John G. Blount Esq^r.

Cap^t. Reading in Mr. Naches Brig Arrived in Tortola a few days ago an intire wreck. not worth repairing.—so says T. W. Lytton.

Stuart & Barr to John Gray & Thomas Blount

PHILAD^a 7. January 1789

Mess^r John G & T Blount

Dear Sirs

Your Esteemed favour of 6 December came to hand yesterday & this day we paid your Bill in favour of Kennadey for 80 Dollars & Before this time we should have Remitted the 80 Geneys [Guineas] agreeable to your order only for the Reasons

32 Assined in oure former to you Viz that we Could not make oute

your Direction & you are sensible it wont do to Remit the Money at Random, we dailey Expect your Directions, we have taken a Note of your Directions as fare [far] as we can make them oute & have Sent them to you, Inclosed⁸⁰—

Your offer of the Tar to Loade the Brig Johanna Capt George McCalmont we accept & Hope she may be with you Earley in april, Please have 100 Bbls good Stone Pitch Readey & the Remainder of her Cargo in Good Tar that she may meet with no Detention & What Barrell Staves may be Wonted to Stow Her Cargo [2] Let them be of the Best Quality, Your offer Respecting paying one half of the amount Due in Tobacco at 3½ Dollars Per hundred at Washington at this present time we think it is too much when you Consider the Navigation of your State & the Risque of Sending it from Thence to a Market

We would wish to meet you on Generous, Principles & with Cheerfullness we Consent to give you the Petersburg price on the Last day of april next for your Inspected Tobacco, We are fulley Perswaded when you Consider oure offer & Weigh all Matters you wil think it Just & Reasonable

At Same time we shall Leave that Matter to your own Generiosity, of Which we Entertain a High Opinion, upon the above termes you may Send forward your Tobacco as it Comes to hand the Sooner it Comes to hand the Better it will Sell We Beg you will take the trouble to send a Boy with a Letter to Mr William White & C^o Kinston to Know if th[y] are Readey to pay of [off] their Note to us [3] and in What articles the[y] meane to pay in and Advise us Thereof Please Charge us with the Expense

Oure J Barr Wrote you from Richmond County on the Rappahannock Per the Schooner Hope Capt Davis to your place Please advise of her arrival with you & her Sailing By which you will Confer an obligation on your Humble Serts

STUART & BARR,

Note oure Navigation has Been Stopped with the Ice Since Capt Jones Left this place Therefore Nothing is doing & no price can be ascertained for aney article except oure produce—

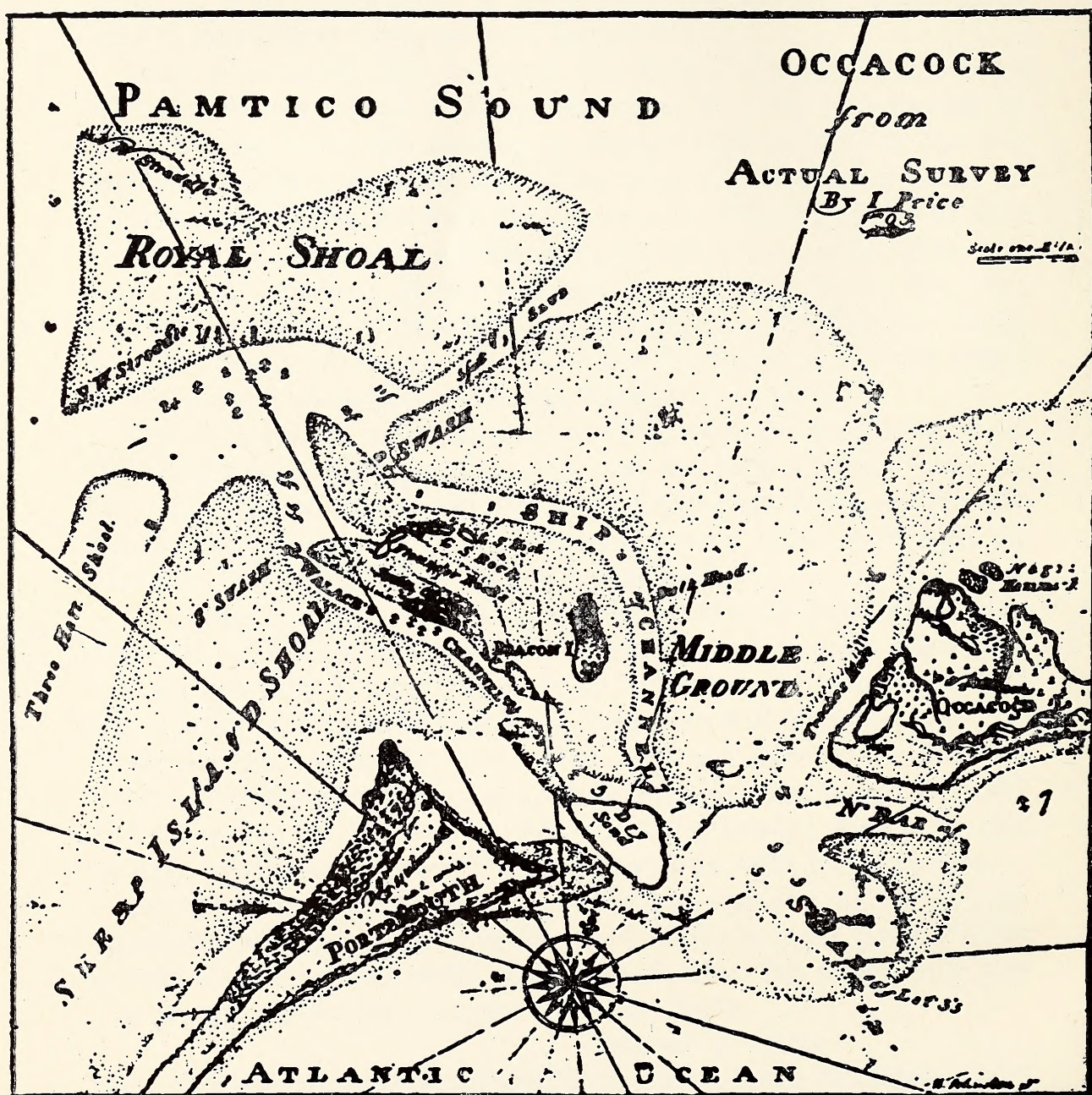
Flower 31^c/ to 33^s per bbl

Bar Iron £26—Rod Iron £33

Burlington Pork £3 & plenty

Bbl Stavs from the yard 66/ P^m & Generally purchased

⁸⁰The money intended to repay William Murdock of London for a sum borrowed by Thomas Blount when he was in England. See William Murdock to Thomas Blount, August 7, 1789 [(Duplicate). Duplicates, even triplicates, were often sent because of the fear of loss in transit], below, p. 496.



"Map of Ocracoke, 1795," by Jonathan Price. From *The North Carolina Historical Review*, III (1926), 633.

7/6 under from the Craft [less when bought
from the vessels]— S & B

Exchange 74 to 75 P C^t

To save postage please write them in oure Behalf
S & B

[note attached to letter—]

remitted Mr. William Murdock

N^o. 8 Crutched Fryars

Addressed: John G & Thos Blount

Merchants

Washington

N^o. Carolina

Josiah Collins to John Gray Blount

EDENTON 8th. Jan^y. 1789

Dear Sir;

Agreeable to your request have hired Dick the Pilot for one year⁸¹—the terms £45 & to be returned at the expiration sufficiently cloathed. Would it not be best for you to desire your friend at y^e Barr to receive him? I will send him down in a Vessel from this—Let me hear from you by return Post—

I am D^r Sir y^r ob^t Ser^t

JOSIAH COLLINS

Jn^o. Gray Blount Esq^r—

Abram Jones to [John Gray Blount]

[MATTAMUSKEET⁸² January 12, 1789]

Dear Sir, I have Just time at this present to offer my Compliments to You, by this oppertunity hope You & famely Enjoy a Good State of Health, my reason for taking this freedom is This, You are acquainted with the mistake in Our County respecting

⁸¹Skilled pilots were needed because of the difficulty of navigation around Ocracoke. John Gray Blount was one of the commissioners who employed the pilots. Crittenden, *The Commerce of North Carolina*, 46, 120.

⁸²Mattamuskeet was so called from the Indians who lived there. The area around Lake Mattamuskeet was included in Hyde County in 1749. *State Records of North Carolina*, XXIII, 232, 338.

our anual Election⁸³ which has render'd us inaccessible to any of the proceedings of the Late General assembly, Especially in this end thereof, I have been (as an Individual) Very anxiously to hear from that Body especially with respect of the Grand political debate between the Feodst. & antifeod. if it Should be Convenient to You Sir, to transmit any of the Proceedings by Mr. Mayo⁸⁴ so that I may thro-. Your kindness have a View of them You will Lay an Obligation on, Your Most Obedient

Humble Servant

ABRAM JONES

Mattamuskeet 12th. Jan^y. 1789

P. S. If by any means You Could (procure or) Lend me One of the Journals of our Late Convention You would in a particular manner Oblige

Your Obdt.

A. J.

Esquire Blount
Washington—

Benjamin Coakley⁸⁵ to John Gray Blount

PRINCETON [North Carolina] 19th. Jan^y. 1789—

Dr. Sir

Since my Return home I find that West India Goods have got verry Scarce which Induces me to send my young man Kinchin Taylor on to you Express for the Purpose of geting them here as Speedy as possible, for their was never so great a Scercity since my Liveing here—Salt in Partucular. I wish you to send as much of that article as possible agreeable to this Order—If your vessel is not to hand that you was to send Round here with the goods, Please to get some Vessel with a Carefull master and Dispatch hir with as maney of the Articles as you Possibly Can procure & you may Depend upon my sending Back the Vessel full of Tob^o. & Grain—

The Article I want you to send here and Quantitys are as followeth (Viz^t)

⁸³This was probably because of a disputed election. No explanation has been found. Connor (*Manual*, 655) gave no representatives from Hyde in 1788, and offered no explanation of the absence of these members.

⁸⁴Nathan Mayo of Martin County.

⁸⁵Coakley might be called one of the Blounts' largest retail merchants, as he bought goods from them in large quantities. He lived at Princeton, a town formed in 1787 on the north side of the Meherrin River in Northampton County, near the Virginia line. The Meherrin area provided large quantities of fish. *State Records of North Carolina*, XXIV, 856-857,

1000 Bush^{ls}. Salt
 1000 Gall^s Molasses
 3000 ^{lb}. Broⁿ Sugar
 400 Gall^s. Rum — & Brandy
 200 ^{lb}. Coffie —
 Your Compliance & Dispach will greatly oblige your Mo: ob^t &
 Hum^l Ser^t &c

BENJ^a. COAKLEY

William Blount to Wilson Blount With a
 Postscript to John Gray Blount*

(Copy)

GREENEVILLE January 20th 1789

Dear Sir

I do not remember the amount of the Receipt I gave Colonel Porterfield for Certificates to enter Land and which is now in your Hands, therefore I do not know the quantity of Land to which I am to make you a Title but you may easily ascertain the quantity two Shillings Certificates per Acre being the price of the Land and for locating the person locating is to have one fifth part of the Land located so that by deducing one fifth from the quantity of Land that the Certificates would purchase at two Shillings per Acre You will discover the exact quantity of Land to which I must give you a Title in exchange for the said Receipt in your Hands.—

On the Entries by me made (a List of which you had some Time past in your possession) Grants have issued to the Amount of about 118'000 Acres mostly in 1000 Acre Tracts of which I have given Robertson⁸⁶ the Locator a Title to his fifth of the part by him located. About 100'000 yet remains in Hand and of them I will execute Titles to you to the Amount that shall appear due to you by the beforementioned Recet in your Hands. You may if you please take Choice from the Numbers which you will find inclosed and this Mode of Division is to be sure fair between man and Man; but there is a plan in the Hands of [2] John Gray Blount at Washington showing where, that is on

*This is a copy of the letter William Blount sent to John Gray to mail. He wanted John Gray to know the contents of the letter.

⁸⁶This was probably Elijah Robertson, who is less well-known than his brother James, but he also received recognition for leadership. He was a representative to the North Carolina assembly, a lieutenant colonel in the militia, and a land "locator." The Blounts had a number of land transactions with him. *State Records of North Carolina*, XX, 273, 461. See Elijah Robertson to [William Blount, December 25, 1788], above, p. 448.

what Water Course most of these Lands lay and how they join each other. From 5000 to 24000 laying in a Body.—The Grants are also in his Hands and He can at any Time execute the Titles to you.—It is my Opinion you had best see this plan and then I think a Division might be made more advantageous and consequently more Satisfactory to both parties. John Gray Blount has also got a General Map of this Western Country⁸⁷ taken from atual Survey which is intended to be published.—I think you will readily agree with me that this Business cannot so well be completed any where else as at my Brothers House therefore I wish you would embrace some opportunity Shortly to ride over to Washington and complete it.—You may go, do it, and return in two days but it will be best to give him Notice of the Time when he may expect you. I am very anxious to have the finishing hand put to this Business for beside the Uneasyness a Man feels in having such a Transaction in an unsettled State, we wish to make immediate arrangements to dispose of that part which is our own; having engaged an Agent by the year for that purpose who will set out for Nash-ville in three weekes. As I presume you are unacquainted with this Land Business perhaps it is necessary to inform you that beside the Expence of Locating there are the [3] Entry Takers, the Secretary's and Surveyors Fees, the State Tax on the Grant and the Expence of Chain Bearers and Markers or Chopers.—I do not know what the whole of them will be on your part for as I before said I do not know what your part is: But I know it will be considerably upwards of one hundred pounds Mony not Certificates and this has been paid by me in a general Acct of such Expences — This passes through the Hands of J. G. Blount who has a Copy of it and will be ready at any Time to comply with the Contents as well in my absence as if I am present.

I am with Esteem,

Your most Ob^t. Servant

W^m. BLOUNT

Mr. Wilson Blount

New Bern

Mr. J. G. Blount.

The foregoing is a Copy in substance of the inclosed Letter to Wilson Blount, please read the inclosed and if you approve inclose in it the number of each Grant—you will observe I have

⁸⁷There are numerous references to maps in these papers. Hugh Williamson was making one of the western area which is doubtless the one which William Blount had in mind here.

[said] he will find the Numbers inclosed. I have two Objects in writing this Letter one is I really wish he would take his part out of these Lands which lay west of the Tennessee and an[o]ther is to show him that I have paid as much Expenses in surveyors &c. &c as I owe him and make him easy on that Head and it is necessary to [4] keep him in a good Humour about his Executing a Deed to Ogden's House in the Manner I wish. to this end Geraw [sic] must be paid for the Mill Stones and I am not able to pay him.—

I have said you will *execute* at any Time well Knowing you cannot because I am sure T. B. ought also to sign—I have said this and fixed the place at your House that all delays if any should take place may be chargeable on *himself* and as he is a Merchant and not a Lawyer if he does come over he will be perfectly satisfied with your subscribing the deeds J. G. & T. Blount and if he is not you can tell him you consider it good but if he does not after the particular Tracts are marked out that it will be very easy to get T. B.'s Signature as well as your own to the deed to him and send it over to him, letting him Take home with him his own Grants.—Had you not best inclose him a Note in my Letter and let him know that you will be happy to see him *at your House* and that you will be ready to comply with the Contents—If a safe Conveyance offers it had best be embraced in preferance of the post as he lives now in the Country⁸⁸ generally and might not readily get it by post and I wish him to have it soon.—

W^m. BLOUNT

George Nicolson to John Gray & Thomas Blount

RICHMOND 22nd. January 1789

Mess^{rs}. J. G. & Tho^s. Blount
Gent^l.

I have frequently wrote your JGB. but have had the mortification to find those Letters treated with silence—as a very considerable time has elapsed since a promise of payment of a part of your debt was to have been made—I expect that you

⁸⁸Wilson Blount had a home in the town of New Bern (William Atlee mentioned him several times in his diary) and a plantation near New Bern. See Hill, *The Hill Family*, II, 30, for additional facts about Wilson Blount. (See "Charles Pettigrew, First Bishop-Elect of N. C." *The North Carolina Historical Review* (January, 1951) for a reference to Wilson Blount.

have taken some steps to comply with that promise was our situation reversed I can only say what we should have done under the same circumstances, I shall wait some short time to hear from & if not shall be under the necessity of taking another very disagreeable [journey?] to see you—I am

Your mo. ob Ser

GEO. NICOLSON

*Thomas Hart*⁸⁹ to [—————]

A form letter

ELIZABETH TOWN MARYLAND Jan^y. 23^d. 1789

Dr. Sir/

Mr. Mathew Carey⁹⁰ the brother of the bearer Mr. Carey, has for upwards of two years past Carried on the American Museum, at Philadelphia, with the approbation of the wise and enlightened part of the Community, where the same has Circulated.—Several attempts were made before the War to establish an American Magazine, but for the want of the system in the plan, and zeal in the people, they all failed.— Thanks to providence, the scene has changed, and I believe every good man will see the propriety of supporting the Museum at this time.—By the American Worlds Uniting we can do wonders.—

Mr. Carey travels from North to South to obtain subscriptions, and I beg leave to recommend the Museum to your Patronage —And am with great respect

Dr. Sir

Yr. Mo. Ob^t. Hbl^e. Serv^t.

THOMAS HART

P.S. You might serve Mr. Carey very materially by writing to some of your Friends., in the different Towns, thro' which he is to pass.—

⁸⁹This was the Thomas Hart who formerly lived at Hartsville near Hillsboro but had removed to Maryland. William Chambers, "As the Twig Is Bent: The Family and the North Carolina Years of Thomas Hart Benton, 1752-1801," *The North Carolina Historical Review*, XXVI (October, 1949), 398.

⁹⁰See the sketch of Mathew Carey by Broadus Mitchell in the *Dictionary of American Biography*, III (1925), 489-491.

Joseph Palmer⁹¹ to John Gray Blount

PINEY GROVE, January 25, 1789

Sir

I have don every thing in my Power to git down the Quality of Lumber thats wanting, but have not got down above 20000—the Roads have been So wet & Rotten that I Cant git more then half a load at the time, my wagon has Stalled 2 & 3 times a load—you may be assured that I Use my best indeavours to git it down, for I wish it down as much as you Can, the Roads—are now So bad and the Yearth So Rotten I Can Scearse git in a Stock I will Let you know Soon as I git it down— am your
ob^t H^l Sr^t

JO^s PALMER25 Janu^y. 1789

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r.
Washington

By post

*Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount*NEW YORK 26th Jan^y. 1789

Dear Sir

Your favors of 26th Ult^o. by Capt Goffegan & 4th Inst. by post, are to hand, Goffigan was 8 or 9 days in port before I got my Letter, notwithstanding I was on board of him & left my name on the day of his arrival, he sail'd again without my knowledge, as did also the Sloop Eagle, which will account for your not hearing from me by either;—Mr. Barr wrote me the 14th Inst. as follows, "You will please to take notice there is only £25,,4,,7 due to John Coart from Samuel York, if the Certificate when liquidated will bring more than J. Coart's Money the overplus must be returned to us. again he says, "you will lay me under great obligations to acquaint me when you get the Certificate settled with the amount you obtain it for, & should it be worth more than the Money due to Coart we will redeem it, that York may have some chance to get it again."—In consequence of the last paragraph I return'd the Certificate in its original state having been at considerable trouble to have

⁹¹Palmer was in charge of the sawmills, which were owned jointly by him and the Blounts. See Joseph Palmer to John Gray Blount, January 6, 1787, above, p. 235.

it liquidated without Success, Supposing the whole property in the Certificate to be yours—I expect Mr Barr's answer by this day's post or tomorrow and flatter myself as I urg'd him on that subject it will enclose a bill or order for the £ 25.4.7—Mr. Ramsey has not [2] not yet compleated your Sales, the Rice is all off but two Casks which were much damag'd, when open'd about Six inches thick Stuck to the Casks all round, we Shall do the best we can with it, I have this moment return'd from Mr R's he was not within, I shall call again before I close this Letter & give you the best account of matters the state of affairs will admit,—Mr [Benjamin] Hawkins desires to be mention'd to you, he was to have written a postscript to this Epistle, but we knew not of the opportunity till it was too late,—Congress are going headlong to work in my opinion with respect N^o. Carolina, that is in fitting the import Law to operate there prior to our being represented—How the D. Should Congress know in its present state where to fix our Ports of entry & delivery, If we had our H. W. [Hugh Williamson] among them they might go on with some propriety, but certain I am they must now act without the necessary information, the bill pass'd the Second reading to day in the house of representatives, it is to be engross'd for a third reading tomorrow, I will endeavour to attend and give you some idea of it by first opportunity—I enclose you Mr. Hamilton the Secetary of the Treasury's report to the House of representatives, & the price current of the day, I would Send you some papers but Mr. Captain says his [3] his Vessel will not go higher than Bath, which I consider as a dangerous place to land such a packet, you shall have a few by next opp^y.—this, the Capt. has promis'd to deliver in person;

Please make my compliments to M^{rs}. Blount M^{rs}. Neale M^{rs}. Harvey &c—& pray tell Silas W. Arnett that I have receiv'd his packet from New Bern but have not a moment now on hand to Answer him, the same to Cox, [Coart]—we look for Doct^r. W & Mr Johnston [Hugh Williamson and Samuel Johnston] every moment, the Doctors son is fine young fellow⁹² & M^{rs} W is very well,

I am in very great has[t]e

Dr. Sir Y^r. very ob^t Ser^t

A C, THOMAS

⁹²This was Williamson's first child. A second son was born in October of the same year. See Abishai Thomas to John Gray Blount, New York, October 19, 1789, below, pp. 511-512.

Pray send me some *old Gold*,—If you cannot procure hard Money for all the paper I have no objections to your risking the balance in Turpentine,—Finals are about the same as usual—viz 8/ to 8/3 or 4^d

Mr. R. [Ramsay] says he has not been offer'd more than 3^d for the Tob^o.—that with the damag'd Rice is all that's on hand

Addressed: John Gray Blount esq.

Merchant

Washington

Captain Nail

*Benjamin Hawkins to William Blount with postscript by
[William Blount] to John Gray Blount*

[NEW YORK] 3rd Feb^y. [1789]

My dear friend!

Looking to day over some old papers I find a part of the information I sent your brother while I was to the Southward, and which he said never came to hand, it is now not necessary to him, as his brother must understand this matter perfectly.

I send you the terms on which the merchants of this Country and Great Britain mutually agree to form the Commercial connections

- 1st. Twelve months after the date of the invoice of the merchandise shipped by the British Merchant if remittances are not made to the amount thereof, it bears an interest of 5 PC. and is charged accordingly in the account current, and perhaps noted in the next invoice.
- 2nd. If the British Merchant pays ready money for any of the Merchandize, he immediately adds 5 PC. on them (the interest of one year,) in the invoice which he sends out noting the same to his correspondent. The same is to be observed if any of the merchandize is bought on credit for a shorter period than one year, that is If the British Merchant purchases at 4 months credit he charges 8 months interest [2] in the invoice
3. The 5 PC is not only paid on the price of the Merchandize, but on the shipping the same from the date.
4. The Commission on all purchases is5 P Cent.

- on freight $2\frac{1}{2}$
 on payment & receipts . $\frac{1}{2}$
 on Insurance $\frac{1}{2}$
 on recovery in case of)
 loss or damage $2\frac{1}{2}$
5. On the exports of this country consigned $2\frac{1}{2}$
 On the Tobacco the American merchant
 allows $\frac{1}{2}$ Pcent
 On the quantity for which security is given
 at customhouse:
 If the Tobacco, is sold in Great Britain, the British
 Merchant receives $2\frac{1}{2}$ PC. on the sales after de-
 ducting the duty, and if it is re-exported he has $2\frac{1}{2}$
 on the whole.
 On American merchandize re-shipped to some other
 market, 1 PCent, and for pointing out to any ship
 arriving from America the best market $1\frac{1}{2}$ PC.
6. Once every year the account current, is made out and sent
 to America and the ballance bears an interest of 5PC. If
 within four months after the receipt of the account cur-
 rent the american merchant dos not transmit his approba-
 tion or observations on it, it is taken for granted the ac-
 count is true.

adieu

BENJAMIN HAWKINS

Col^o. Blount.

[3] I suppose the Terms mentioned are handed to Hawkins by
 the Petersburg Merchants—Had you not best have them trans-
 cribed in your Invoice or some other Book for it may be that it
 is a kind of Knowledge that may some day be wanted—
 I make no doubt but Tom has this kind of Information but
 queary whether committed to paper.—

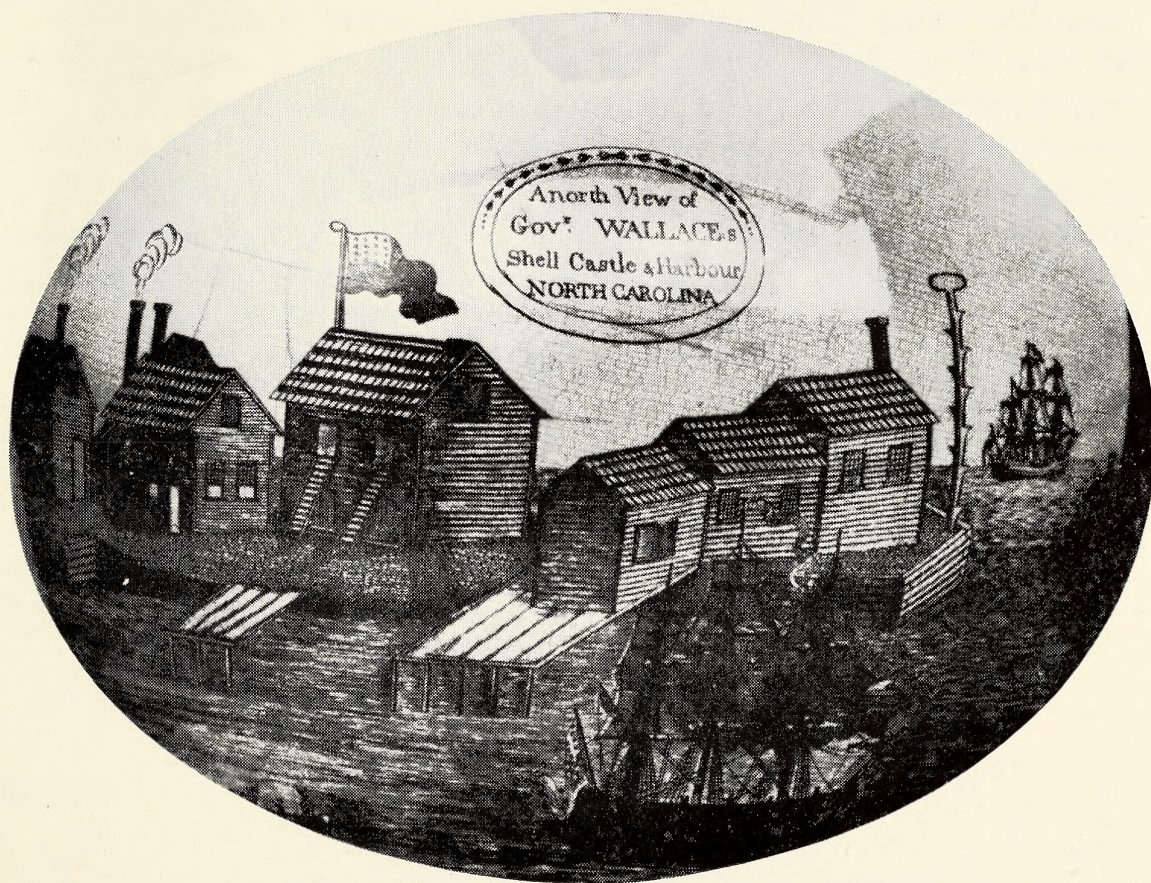
Abner Neale to John Gray Blount

St. CROIX⁹³ Feb^y 4th. 1789.—

Sir/

I am happy to inform you that Cap^t. Webster Arived here the
 1st. Inst.—

⁹³St. Croix was one of the Virgin Islands and its ports were open to American shippers.



SHELL CASTLE

From a pitcher in the Blount Collection, Hall of History.

Agreeable to what I wrote you, by Cossa I cant Sell the Cargoe at this place except what was on deck and the Staves, the Staves I Sold for 18 doll^s and if there had been a proportion of Heading they would have bro^t. 20. or 22 certain, I am in hopes of getting away from here Tomorrow for the Cape [Cape Francois] and am in hopes of meeting Cossa at that place and hearing from you fully, what Scantling I had on Deck here I sold for 16 doll^s. & wish I could have got the same for the Whole Cargoe, but could not, the remainder of the Cargoe I am well informed will do [2] much better at the Cape, the Vessell this comes by Arived at West End a few days agoe and he has been retailing his Pitch Pine Lumber there at 10 doll^s. his [he is] from Windsor below Edenton and returns to Edenton imediately having but a short time to write this can't say as much as I want, pray send my Family word on your Rect. of this; that I am well My Compt^s. to your Family & all Friends

I am your Ob^t Hum^l.

Servant

ABNER NEALE

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr.

Washington

N^o. Carolina

[*William Blount*] to [*John Gray Blount*]

NEW BERN March 3^d. 1789

Dear Sir,

I began this as a Letter of Introduction of John Morgan to you that is Doc^r. Morgan of Philadelphia a Brother of Gov^r. Morgan but I have done it on another piece of paper.⁹⁴ He has laid open the whole Business of his Brother to me and proposed large Schemes and Connections in the Business I have answered no, and He has desired me to reconsider or in other Words to consider untill my return from the South. By the inclosed Letter which you will please read and preserve you will see the favourable Light in which I stand with him. Sitgreaves says a Judge Merchant &c in this place is necessary to him and I have recom-

⁹⁴He refers to the attempt of George Morgan of New Jersey to make a deal with Spain to settle lands west of the Mississippi. Kinnard, *Spain in Mississippi Valley* Vol. III, Part II, xxvi; Thomas Perkins Abernethy, *Western Lands and the American Revolution* (New York; D. Appleton-Century Company, 1937), 355-360.

mended Neale [Abner Neale] saying you could induce him to accept if any Body could. The Acceptance of it would be the high Road to Promotion [2] to Judge of the Admiralty under the new Constitution. Willie [Willie Blount] might be his Register.—

None of the Creditors of T & T. O [Titus & Thomas Ogden] are to be feared but John Hawkes the Agent of the Privateers[.] He must be bought off. if possible pray call and see him & invite him to see you &c &c he lodges at Mrs. Heaths, and is confined with the Gout.—Mathew Duncan has sent in what is called a Bail Price against T. Ogden to Thomas Pearson to sieze him and send him to Philadelphia—It will not be attempted but it is best Ogden should know it for I want him incensed against Duncan's—

I have told old Nancy that She may build on my Lot opposite Wilson Blounts a House for herself to live in—

Charles Gerrard to [John Gray Blount]

HILLSBOROUGH March 10th. 1789

Sir

I find on enquiry at the entery takers office, the following transfers made of Lands entered by you and your Brothers (viz^t) from N^o.2422 to 2426 in the name of George Horn, & 2428 in the name of Jehu Low transfered to Stokely Donoldson,—from 2497 to 2501 in the name of William McDonald, transfered to Micajah Thomas.—from 2502 to 2504 in the name of Thomas Williams, transfered to Gen^l. W^m. Bryan.—2506 in the name of Thomas Williams, transfered to John Williams.—2507 & 2508 in the name of Charles Cook, transfered to Eli West.—from 2509 to 2511 in the name of Charles Cook, transfered to Enoch Ward.—from 2512 to 2521 in the names of James Coor, and Thomas Coor, and no transfers of them have been made.—It is to be understood that where I mention from N^o. - to N^o.- that both numbers are included.—I observe an entery made in the name of Micajah Thomas for 5,000 acres and no transfers made, which I Suppose to be the Land you mentioned to have rec^d. the Certificates for.—The enteries made by John Donoldson are only for 97,000 acres, and no transfers have been made to Donoldson (on the Books) from the persons in whose names

the enteries were made neither have the warrants Issued from the office⁹⁵

In about ten days there have passed through this Town upwards of fifty Souls bound for Cumberland, includeing our party which Consists of Six men two women and four Children.—I was mentioning to Major Doherty your intentions of geting a plate cut by [2] by subscription for a part of the western Country.⁹⁶ which he appears to be fond of, and Says if you'll forward to him the preamble of the Subscription, with the price each Subscriber are to pay, he thinks 'twill be in his power to get a great number of Subscribers, as he will be able from his Books to know the principle land holders.—

I am Sir

Y^r. Ob^t. Servant

CHARLES GERRARD

Abner Neale to John Gray Blount

CAPE FRANCOIS March 10th. 1789.

Dr Sir.

I wrote you soon after my arival here via Edenton informing you of the same and was then in hopes to have been away in this but so much difficulty with the damn'd Frenchmen; and so much trouble to land the Cargoe has prevented it, however they have realy work'd hard being weakand. this will be handed by Cap^t. Webster in the Sloop Endeavour with a Cargoe agreeable to Invoice, Molasses being very scarce or would have taken more and some less Salt. I was Obliged to buy Salt here as at Turks Isles. they wont let a Vessell take a bus^l. if she carrys any thing there except cash tho it be only for her home bound Cargoe.—[2] I find the Disbursements much higher here than I expected, or even had an Idea of[.] Cap^t. Cossa Arived here the 6th and I have sold his Cargoe for 150#. for the Lumber & 3 doll^s. for the Shingles delivering them along side by which means I am in great hopes of getting away with him in Six days shall bring Salt and Molasses and a few other small articles that I think will Answer. If the Vessill was mine I should not hessitate amo-

⁹⁵See John Armstrong to William Blount, Oct. 6, 1789, below, p. 507.

⁹⁶They hoped to get enough subscriptions to finance the printing of the map. See Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount, May 25, April 20, 1789, below, p. 474.

ment to take off 60 to 100. Bb^l. Sugar and as much Coffee as I wanted, as its done here every day & not an Instance for a long time of a Sasure [seizure] I think it the easiest thing in nature however as I dont own her will not run the risk, I am very sorry that you did not send some Tobacco as [3] that will now command 6 to 8 doll^s. P C^t. and the pork not more than 11 doll^s. Pbb^l. the Herring are worth nothing scarcely so fluctuating is this market they will but little more than pay the Duties which is here very high; I have advanced Cap^t. Ja^s. Webster Thirty dollars here, which you & him are to settle not having any instructions nor he not knowing we ware at a loss tho' in my Opinion he is adiserving [a deserving] man—Cap^t. Webster sails in Company with Cap^t. Palmer in Rhodes's Brig. and I expect to Sail in Company with Cap^t. Jones who is bound to your place with Molasses principaly for to get a Load [of] Lumber.⁹⁷ I have promised him Letters of Recommendⁿ to you.

I am your most Ob^t. Hum^l.

Servant.

ABNER NEALE

Addressed: John G. Blount Esquire
Merchant
Washington

John Simpson to [John Gray Blount]

[March 13, 1789]

My Dear Sir

I am in torment of Anquish for want of the Needfull—I do not know what to do or say when I am dunned & I even Blush to hide myself—Pray Send me what relieff you can—Wybil I mean Jn^o. will be over in Washington next week I owe him 190 & Cant discharge him which he wishes—And I cant buy Produce nor do any thing in dispatching the Vessells from Starving Poverty

Pray do Consider my Pitifull Case—

⁹⁷The Blounts apparently had three vessels in the West Indies at this time: one under James Webster, one under Ezekiel Cossa, and the one commanded by Abner Neale.

I wrote you P Laurence Boat w^t 10 Casks Spirits Turpentine
for R Blackledge which he wrote me you w^d Receive & pay p^t for

I am with Esteem

Dear Sir

your mo Obd Ser^t

JOHN SIMPSON

13 March 1789

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

TARB°. March 14th 1789—

Dear Sir,

If the Boat may be permitted to go again to Tooles' landing she can bring down the residue of the 200 Barrels [of corn], which is ready beat out, if not she can have no more than sixty Barrels—the light pay is very inconsiderable indeed.—Tallow about 50^{wt} Beeswax about 20^{wt}. no Skins of any kind, & but 6 or 8^t. Snakeroot. except the hh^d. Tob°. rec^d of Blackledge I have one other—& this is all I have or can get to send you—the Corn borrowed of Johnston [Amos Johnston] will probably be soon called for & I have no expectation of getting any more[.] Cap^t. Davis brings down a horse I lately bought for Jacob which you will please receive & keep till you hear from him on the Subject—he receives him in good condition & it is expected he will deliver him to you so—My sister Harvey is confined to her bed with a violent Cold & fever which I am fearful will be attended with bad consequences—however, she, being of a contrary opinion, refuses to have the assistance of a Physician—

J.G.

Y^{rs}. & al

THO. BLOUNT

Write Jacob that)
you have his)
horse in possession)

Addressed: Mr. Jn°. G. Blount

Washington

fav^d. by Capt. Davis

*Edward Hall to John Gray Blount*TARBOROUGH March 18th 1789.

Sir

On my arrival in Tarborough I rec^d. instructions to forward my Pork on as expeditiously as possible, there being a probability of disposing of it—and the time being uncertain when your vessel would be in induced me to embrace an opportunity of shipping 400 barrels immediately by Cotherills Sloop—the other 200 I must beg the favor of you to engage some small vessel, when I shall be able to get it down which will be some time first to carry round—I have put 50 barrels on board your Boat which I wish put on board the Sloop

I am

Your Ob Serv^t

EDWARD HALL

[Note on reverse side]

Since Mr Hall wrote this Letter wh. I suppose mentions only 50 Bll^s. Pork he had del^d. 22 more making in the whole 72 Bll^s.

T. B.

[Thomas Blount]

Addressed: Mr. John G. Blount
Washington

*William Blount to John Gray Blount*CHARLESTON March 25th 1789

Jacob Blount may read the inclosed, and then forward it to J. G. Blount

Sunday June 7th 1789

After writing this Letter at Captain Williamson's Counting Room I asked if he knew Lewis and he answered he was the damndest Rascal in the World and I afterwards asked William Price who was his Charleston Friend if he was a Man of Fortune He answered He believed not.—I state let him be Rascal or not that it will make no difference in the addressing to him a small Vessel as it will be no object and he will if a Rascal lay by for a greater Oppertunity. I am—

W^m. BLOUNT

I wish you would come up this Week I will be at Home all the Week—

CHARLESTON March 25th 1789 Wednesday

I set out from this for Georgia on Friday[.] Major Washington is here he tells me that your debt of Low's has been paid through his Hands. Many Vessels have loaded here from Jamaica with Lumber at high Prices namely Inch Board 60/. 22 Inch Shingles 18/8 Captain Williamson says better in quality than No. Car^a. Shingles (Short Count) Staves half dressed white Oak with 250 Heading to 1000 Staves Nett that is short Count 100/ to 105/ paper Money Sterling depreciation 10 P Cent. Among the Gentlemen engaged in this Jamaica Trade I have met with a Mr. Lewis of Shakespear & Lewis Merchants or rather Factors for several estates who reside on the South Side at black River who has loaded several Vessels at the above Prices much to his dissatisfaction—I have told him upon his Inquiring that North Carolina could supply him on much better Terms and that John G. & Thomas Blount would be glad to be their Consignees—I have told him that John G. & Thomas would write them Shortly fully and inform what Vessels would Suit [2] what Articles, Sugar of the best quality he says would suit them to Ship to you as well as any thing—I have said you could Save the duties principally & that you would point out the Mode—The Acquaintance of Lewis & myself began by his Inquiring particularly after the Spirit Turpentine He says in the Business he is engaged in that he can dispose of to the Plantations to which Shakespear & Lewis are Factors fifty Barrells of it a year at one dollar and a Half per Gallon and upon asking him repeatedly if he could be sure of one dolar at all times he answered positively yes saying that the Spirit they had came all from England and none charged there at less than 5/ Sterling—Tar he says has never been by the quantity at Black River at less than 4 dollars per Barrell and that as much as from 50 to 100 Barrells would suit them at that price to sell to a profit to the Estates they supply. There is no Custom House at Black River nor within less than 30 Miles nor has there been scarcely one american in there the North Side being the place [most frequented] [3] where all that Business is done and that no Guard a Costa have yet appeared on the South Side—Our father has you know 35 Barrells of Spirit Turpentine he would be glad to get 4/ per Gallon for You have a Small Schooner you got from Pendleton, Tar you can get and Shingles You have, Smith understands the Business—I have said to Lewis who sails

in a few days for Jamaica that I think John G & Tho^s. Blount will send such a Vessel and Cargo to the Address of Shakespeare and Lewis Black River indeed written him a Letter that purpose[s] to prepare them in Case you should send her.—Blackledge did want to go to Jamaica and if you do not choose to adventure the little Schooner or if you do he would readily be induced to go in her and he would I think be very useful there to you for I am sure he will insure you some Consignments from them for they are rich, and if I may judge from Lewis quite uninformed with respect to the Lumber Business in America. Mr. Vassal Tom. Blount's London Friend is an Uncle to Lewis—Lewis is an old Rake of Fortune.—[4] I have told Lewis that Sugar will probably bear a good Price in Carolina as much it passed into Virginia where there is a duty and that that duty is contrived to be saved.—if he sends in any Vessels he wants them in Carolina by August and to return by Christmas to Jamaica and want to know what each Article can be furnished at at that Season say Inch Board, half dressed white Oak Hogsheads Staves & red Oak Hogshead Staves half dressed Shingles both 18 & 22 Inch—Scantling & 2 Inch Plank—The Market that Rum, Sugar, Alspice. Limes &c would probably command.—

I doubt not but if you will fit out Blackledge with a small Vessel that he will answer good purposes to you—

I have not time or I would write more fully the Vessel being just about to sail for Edenton.

W^m. BLOUNT

J. G. Blount

It may be worthy of Note that at Savannah Owens says 22 Inch Shingles have not been less than 4 hard dollars at any time if boated to Market & 3 if rafted and have ever commanded the Money down on the Deleverly. 18 Inch command no price

Addressed: John Gray Blount

By Mr. Barr

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK 26th March 1789

Dear Sir

Some weeks since I requested of you to send me the Amo^t. of capital Articles exported in 1788 from the Ports of Bath & New-

bern, say of Tar Pitch Turp: Corn, Pease, Pork, Pipe Hhd & Brl Staves Scantling, Tobacco &c I presumed that Mr Coor might be too indolent or Sulkey to cast up the Amot^t from his Books but that your Brother in Law Neal [Abner Neale] might do it in a few minutes. Since the writing of that letter viz dated on the 13th inst I have a Letter from your Brother William respecting some late Regulations for the Guidance of the French Consul at Wilmington, those Regulations unless altered must bear hard on your Port as also on Newbern & Edenton I shall endeavour to have them amended but need Some Vouchers. Be so good as inform me with all convenient Dispatch how many Vessels on the Year 1788 have cleared from your Port for any Port in the french West Indies and how many in the Year 1787. Also how many Vessels in all have cleared on each of those Years from your Port. Be so good as procure some Person to [2] to furnish you with the like Information from Newbern. The object is interesting and demands attention be assured that I shall not suffer it to sleep & though our State is not formally in the Union I flatter myself that our representations will not be neglected. It is rather too hard to require that every Vessel from N. Carol. bound for any Port in the French West Indies should be obliged to clear at Wilmington.

I am Dear Sir

Your obed^t Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

John G. Blount Esq^r

Jacob Blount to John Gray Blount

EDENTON Ap^l. 1st. 1789—

Mr. John Gray Blount

Dr. Sir.

You have Inclos'd a Execution against Tho^s. Alderson you will Obliege, Mr. Collins, by giving of it to the Sheriff and tell him to levy on the property, And make his return not sold by consent of the plaintiff that is provided he will agree to pay the Interest untill paid, but if he will not agree to pay the Interest let the Sheriff Sell immediately, I also Inclose you an Order on Mr. Camberling in favour of Mr. Collins and will thank you to present it and if not paid or a positive assurance of its

being paid shortly send [it] back by the next post, if your Schooner dont cone around [shor]tly will thank you to send by the Stage my trunk, I men [mean] the one that has my Clothes in it, but should She come round in three weeks it will do in that case will thank you to send me one of your Mehogany Bedsteads (A large one) both of my trunks and Chest with Bed also my Bitch, Nancy joins in Compt^s to Sister

I am Yours &c

JACOB BLOUNT

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esqr
Washington

Thomas Blount to [John Gray Blount]

TARBOROUGH 13th April 1789—

Dr. Sir,

I have received P the Tarb^o. Packet—315 Bush^{ls}. Salt, 1 Cask
120.5.115

nails & the two following hh^{ds}. Molasses viz^t. 120.5.115 230 Gal^s. the other hh^d. Molasses that was intended for this Store, you are to charge to Amos Johnston at 4/. & he will pay Corn for it, but he has not yet determined whether he will let us have the whole of his Corn, & I am fearful we shall not get it—Corn is scarcer than you seem to imagine & the holders of it, will not part with it without Money—of course there is but little prospect of my getting any—Barrell'd Pork is not to be had on your terms—Toole⁹⁸ would take Molasses at 4/. & Salt at 6/ here but nothing less—the packet brings a hh^d. Tobacco—wt. 839 lb. at 45/. to Debit of Store at Washington—& has taken in at this place; 158 Bll^s. Pork on freight for Edw^d. Hall & will take in for him 7 or 8 more at Town Creek, & also 2 Barrels lard from Amos Johnston for Cap^t Dennis—The freight of Halls Pork as well this as what he sent before, must be charged to Store at Tarb^o. & an acco^t. thereof sent by the first opportunity—Molasses is sold here by the single Gallon at 4/6 & Bacon cannot be had under 10^d. P^{lb}. therefore you are not to count any thing upon that Article—Tob^a. comes in very slowly & cash

⁹⁸Henry Irwin Toole was a prominent merchant of Tarboro. He was made a military captain in 1775, was a town commissioner and was a representative to the state assembly. *Colonial Records of North Carolina*, X, 187, 287; *State Records of North Carolina*, XIV, 740; XVII, 878; XIX, 391. Wheeler, *Historical Sketches*, II, 143.

is inconceiveably scarce [2] Remember that Court sits here the first week in May & your Accounts are yet to be audited—Johnston has del^d. me another Note for thirty Barrels Pitch at Duprees Landing—the next time the Boat comes up it will be proper that she should take the whole of it down to prevent loss, which it is now daily subject to—One of the Tooles will shortly be down to settle with you & you can then send me their a/c

Y^{rs}.

THO. BLOUNT

Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount

TARB^o. 18th April 1789

Dear Sir,

Col. Hogg⁹⁹ is desirous of going to Beaufort with his family by Water & has requested me to write you to know if you can procure him a comfortable Vessel in the Course of ten or fourteen days—It is a matter he has so much at heart that he says rather than be disappointed he would give the price of a freight for the run—and it is so necessary to the preservation of his life (for he is now unable to ride 5 miles in any sort of Carriage) that I shall consider myself much obliged if you will endeavor to comply with his request—If you get one you will please inform me of it as soon as possible—the price of her he will pay [him] in Money—but let her be good & comfortable.

By return of the bearer Mr. Bolling Hall I wish to know whether you undertake it & what [is] you[r] prospect of Success—Mr. G. Toole will be down Tomorrow—Your acco^{ts}. that are to be audited—all are well

Y^{rs}.

THO. BLOUNT

Addressed: John G. Blount
Washington

Mr. Hall

⁹⁹James Hogg of Hillsboro was a brother of Robert Hogg, an important merchant of Wilmington, North Carolina. James Hogg migrated from Scotland in 1774 and settled at Hillsboro. He was a member of the Transylvania Land Company and worked to get its claims recognized by Congress. He was much interested in the founding of the University of North Carolina and was one of a small committee which chose Chapel Hill as the site. Dr. Archibald Henderson, "James Hogg, A Good Scot and a Distinguished North Carolinian," *The News and Observer* (Raleigh), May 8, 1938; Abernethy, *Western Lands and the American Revolution*, 124.

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK 20th April 1789

Dear Sir

A few Weeks ago some Body undertook to give advice to People about to move to new Countries and advised them by all Means to Settle pretty far North. I think it was intended to promote the Settlement of the Lands in the back Part of Pennsylvania or New York. Enclosed you have the other Side of the Question. By the Way, If your Map was published I think that some Such Ideas a little dilated might be published in a two Penny Pamphlet, as such Things are called, and circulated with the Map.

Since writing my last about naval Stores I have been to see a Parcel of Coal Tar, from Scotland. It is a potent Commodity and sold high. Said to be infallible against the biting of worms against Bornekles or other foulness on the Bottom of Vessels—all of which by the Way is a lye, but this by the by. The Brls that contain said Potent Tar you may be assured are well made and As I presume in the most approved Form. The whole Quantity now about 100 Brls is in a Ware [2] Ware House half a mile out of Town. The Cooper who trimmed them on their arrival here says that 3 or 4 filled up all the rest. There must have been 150 or 200. The Brls have not the primping addition of external white Wash, hardly any mark of leading about them. There chanced to be in their Company a Carolina Brl of Turpentine and one of Pitch. Our Brl is rather the deepest across the Head and at least as long as the Scots Brl. But the Scots Brls are not full Hooped. They have I think Six Hoops, like Pork Brls on each End. three & three. The Staves are all made of sawn Plank which I take to be Norway Pine. They are at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of an Inch thick. I noted a Flag in one of the Joints in the Head of a Brl & the Cooper told me that every Brl he took down had the Joints in the Head tightened by a Flag. The Brls as to Curvity in the Bilge were much of the shape of our's. As we have timber plenty that will spit well we need not saw Staves but I would submit to you whether this Inference is not fairly drawn. Let our Staves of Cypress or Pine be split so as to work at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of an Inch thick, the head 1 Inch let them be perfectly Seasoned, the Joints carefully plained, the Joints in the Head flagged. The Heads well [3] well fitted in the Groves & the Brls fully hooped, the Smallest Hoops being driven on near-

est the Bung so that the Brls may press on one another in Bulk the more equally. In such Case I think we might expect not to lose much Tar. To be Secure of having clear Tar & without Water is another object. Let us consider what is to be gained by such Care. I will take 100 Brls of the late Shipment from Edenton for Brist[ol] as the Subject of Calculation.

100 Brls Tar bot at 8/S P [shillings per barrel]	£ 40: 0:0
Insurance at 3Pct.	1:4:0)
Freight at 1 Crown or 9/Sp	45:0:0)
Cooperage & other incid ^l . Charge at 1/ 5: . . . . .	) 51:4:0
Leakage 15 Pct the Sales of 85 Brls	
remaining at 12 Louvres or 18/ PBrI	£ 76:10:0
Commissions on £ 76:10 at 5PC ^t	3:16:6
	<hr/>
	55:0:6 55:0:6
	<hr/>
	21:9:6

But we presume that 108 Brls bot from the Tar burner seldom produces more than 100 Brls to be shipped which is another Loss of £ 3:4. In other Words. The Merchant who lays out £ 43:4 in buying Tar as it is usually put up may expect to receive £ 21:9:6 in Return That is to say he sinks rather more than half his Stock. N:B: American Tar, so bad is its Character has lately sold in France at 12 livres—2 Crowns when Russia Tar sold from 18 at 20 Livres.

[4] Let 100 Brls be shipped without dirt or Water in such Brls as I propose. Suppose they cost 8/9 £ 43:15:0

Leakage at 2 P C^t The Sales of

97 # Brls remaining at 19 livres or 27/ ..	£ 130:19:0
Charges	
Insurance of £ 43:15 a 3PC ^t	1:6:3)
Freight 100 Brls at 9/	45:0:0)
Cooperage & other insidental)
Charges	5:0:0)
Commission on sales of 130:19)
at 5 Pct	6:10:11)
	58: 5: 2
	<hr/>
	72:13:10

We may suppose that 2 Brls Pct were lost before the Shipment, which brought the

Adventure to £ 44:12:	44:12: 0
	<hr/>
	£ 28: 1:10

This give a Profit of near 65 Pct. instead of sinking half the Capital.

You will observe I take for granted that our Tar when shipped in good Order as the Russia Tar will command the same Price.

If the Russian War continues through any Part of the next Summer Tar in France must be dear, I think in good Order it will certainly command 3 Crowns perhaps 20 Livres. Can a Cargo be shipped in the Fall from your Port of 700 Brls Tar & 200 Rosin? Think of this, in such Brls as described.

Jn^o G Blount Esqr.

Yrs

HU WILLIAMSON

Fulwar Skipwith to Thomas Blount

RICHMOND 22^d. Ap^l. 1789

Dear Blount

The concern, which your Silence previous to your departure from Europe gave me, could only have been equalled by the pleasure which I now feel at hearing of your being in Carolina—you must excuse me if—at this late period, this pleasure should prove to be founded on Something more than that personal friendship which my conduct perhaps may have proved that I have had for you—it becomes now Blount a persuasion that you cannot nor will not Suffer me & my connexions longer to suffer distress, which has in our instance found its recompense in the walls of a prison, & may in another [2] Should you longer withhold a Settlement of your account—from my knowledge of your brother as well as yourself I am Satisfied of your good intentions, yet I must persuade myself that something more might have been done toward our relief—the various natures & modes of payment which have always been at your discretion to make independent of money it would seem might enable you to do something.—Carolina has produce, some of which doubtless you must have the command of—your Tob^o. or corn we are disposed to receive, Negroes, Continental paper such as final settlements, loan office Certificates, & even a thousand pounds in your state debt at a price that may give you an advantage—Continental Securities I am most anxious to obtain.—I beg most earnestly to hear from you & to be favored with some offers of a particular mode of settlement [3] of your account either in part or whole

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Jn^o G Blount Esqr.

Yrs

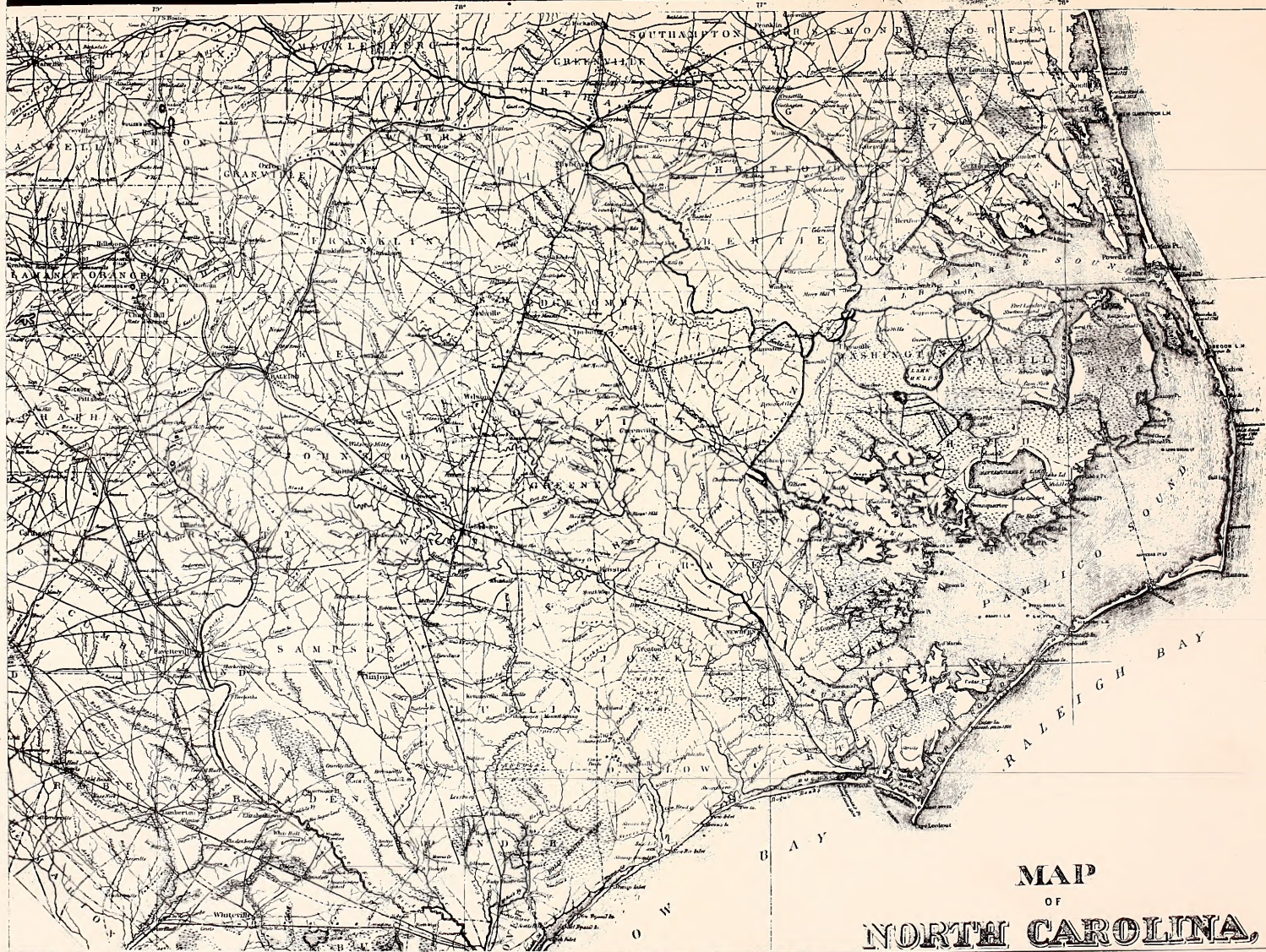
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With my best respects to your Brother I remain with very
great attachment & Esteem

Dr Blount

Your Mo Ob Servant

FULWAR SKIPWITH

Edward Hall to [John Gray Blount]

TARBRO^h. 28th. April 1789

Dr Sir

Your Brother informs me you are about to Ship my Pork to Norfolk.—it goes to the address of Mess^{rs}. Reids, to whom I have wrote respecting it—

If I mistake not you have about one hundred & Eighty one barrels—and if you will be so obliging as to call on Mr Robert Hattridge he will deliver you 7 or 8 or 9 more making in the whole about 190 barrels. Your attention to this business will very much oblige

Your Ob^t Servant

EDWARD HALL

Benjamin Atkinson¹⁰⁰ to John Gray Blount

[BENSBOROUGH, May 2, 1789]

Mr. Blount

Sir I have delivered unto Cap^t. Hardie One Hundred & Seventy Barrels corn at my landing & he Tells me he Rec^d. fifteen & a half Barrels at Penny Hill & the Ballance of the Two Hundred Barrels will be delivered at Duprees or Sturdivants landing to your order I have also Sent in your Boat One Barrel of Tallow for Captain Eastwood please to deliver the same to him & Charge me with the Freight I have also Sent Twenty five Bushels of peas of the Best Quality please to deliver to Mr. Cottrell upon his paying you Six Shillings P Bushel and the Freight to Washington which please to place to my Account

¹⁰⁰Atkinson was an active merchant of Bensborough, or Bensboro, in Pitt County, north-west of Greenville on the Tar River (see W. C. Kerr, map of North Carolina, 1882, p. 477.) Atkinson bought goods from the Blounts in large quantities. They often shipped cargoes for him or furnished vessels for him to have loaded for northern ports, the West Indies, or Europe.

which if he Refuseth to do please to Store for me. I have also Sent three Barrels. of Pork for Mr. Cottrell that he has paid me for which please to deliver him upon his paying Your Freight. I have Concluded that my Barrel Pork may Rest at home untill I can hear from some place that it will Assure[.] should you get Information [of] any Market for it would thank you to Inform me and Your Favours would be Esteemed by yr

Most Obedient H^m. Ser^t.

BEN ATKINSON

2^d. day of May 1789

Addressed: Mr Jn^o G Blount

Merch^t

Washington

George Ogg¹⁰¹ to [William Blount?]

LUMBERTON May 10th. 1789

Dear Sir

I was much astonished Some time ago at Fayette hearing a Mr. Waless [*sic*] a Member of the Executive Council Mention the name of John Gray & Thomas Blount among the number of those Gentlemen Implicated for a Knowledge of the manner in which the Spurious claims¹⁰² were brought forward to Obtain Grants for Western lands, Mr. George Lucas a man of great Worth from Chatham [County] was the person to whome they addressed themselves. When their Countenances turn'd towards me I Could forbear no longer, I replied that you had more good grants than would authorise the Pay^t. of Taxes much longer,— & Perhaps went much farther with assertions to destroy Such belief.

I find Sir that [2] friends & an Honest printer is at Present essential to the peace of Individuals as well as to the Happiness of our Country.—Sofar as relates to your family is to be found in Boylands Paper¹⁰³ dated the 31st. the Nephew of a Mr. Hodge

¹⁰¹Not much has been learned about Ogg. He probably lived in the Fayetteville area. The Blounts had numerous dealings with him, not always to their benefit. He was associated with William Blount's sale of goods designed for the Indians at the Treaty of Hopewell and appears later in their land speculations.

¹⁰²The Blounts were frequently charged with frauds in land speculations. The courts did not condemn them. At least a part of the accusations may be attributed to suspicion arising from a natural jealousy of the enormous extent of their land holdings.

¹⁰³William Boylan was Hodge's nephew and partner in the publication of the *North Carolina Minerva and Fayetteville Gazette*. No reference to a paper published by Boylan this early has been found. Crittenden, "North Carolina Newspapers before 1790"; Weeks, *The Press of North Carolina in the Eighteenth Century*; Allen, *History of Halifax County*.

of Halifax which Presents to the world a number of Caracatures, the next is dated Subsequent which date I have forgot, exposing to ridicule Some of the Bravest men in all America & equally Zealous in the Cause of Freedom thro' life as they were brave in the field,—My attention has been more particularly called to this Subject by Some Representations made to me by Genrale Willis¹⁰⁴ of this Place who has in early life & in pereulous times the Defence of this Country the principal Object of his life & a man who Realy Stands upon high ground in this Part of the State, Yet notwithstanding his long & respectable [3] Standing here, He is now nearly Born down by the boldness of Some Scotch Tories & their adherants, assisted by Boyland & the rascally & Imprudent party of Fayette who are now arrived at a Degree of Impudence not to be Paralell'd—I trust yet Sir, Notwithstanding what has Happened; you will once more make an exertion to Crush Such men & printers, for Surely the thing is to be done altho their Principles will remain unimpair'd *till Death*

I shall be Happy to know whither you mean going to the Treaty or not,—Alfred Moore¹⁰⁵ is not yet come but I am told is making preparation for the Journey,

I am as usual yours

GEO. OGG

Reading Blount to John Gray Blount

[May 16, 1789]

Sir/

Coll Goram brings, Hines Pattent—I wish you to Get from bonner dardens Note and send by the Boy, 2^{lb}. of brimstone.

I am afraid you have call'd on me for more than I can fulfill by the time you request; it is impossible at this time to purchase at this place 10m shingles I have therefore set to getting of them and shall be able from this day if the weather is good, to make 12m a day till call'd on, but to every disadvantage

¹⁰⁴General John Willis was "a lawer and a civil engineer and also a large planter and mill owner." He is accredited with the founding of Lumberton and was in general a progressive and influential citizen. Ashe, *History of North Carolina*, II, 84.

¹⁰⁵He probably refers to the Cherokee Treaty. Alfred Moore was a distinguished jurist of North Carolina. He served as attorney general and judge in the state and succeeded James Iredell as associate judge of the Supreme Court of the United States. Albert Ray Newsome, "Alfred Moore," *Dictionary of American Biography*, XIII (1934), 112-113; Wagstaff, *The Papers of John Steele*, I, 36.

The Brig has taken 32017 feet of boards the shingles you will have the acct of at the return to your place which will be in few days—

Send by the first oppertunity some Rum som Herrings & Lards[.] at this time nothing will make shingles only my hands,—

If the money can be rais'd from Forbs I must have it by mondy week if I pay the expence of some persons going up to attend to it

Yours

READING BLOUNT

May 16^t. 1789

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Washington

Jacob Blount to John Gray Blount

EDENTON May 18th. 1789

Sir

I must inform you that Josiah Collins will Sail tomorrow for Cape Francois and from there will go to Kingston Jamaica and will do any business you may have to do there with pleasure, the Brig has to discharge her lighter at the Bar so that if you get your Necessary papers and Instructions there by the last of the week it will do, I should have given you earlier information had they concluded upon his going to Jamaica sooner, I last night took Dick¹⁰⁶ and shall have him Ironed and sent down by the Brig, I was oblig'd to give a Negroe five pounds to betray him he Complains of very hard usage both of Wallace & Davis and if he ever gets an opportunity will runaway as he is so much Incouraged by his Mistriss which I am convinc'd of —by her being so vex'd at his having been caught I Hant done any thing to him but have said he never will be out of Irons again to perplex his Mistress. Nancy Joins in Comp^{ts}.

Yours &^c

JACOB BLOUNT

P. S I borrowd the money

Addressed: Mr. John Gray Blount
Washington

¹⁰⁶Probably the same one mentioned in Josiah Collins to John Gray Blount, Edenton, January 8, 1789, above, p. 453.

Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount

HALIFAX [NORTH CAROLINA] 22nd May 1789

Sir

It is with much regret I am oblig'd to give up the Idea of making you a visit at Washington prior to my Setting out to New York, which I fully intended to do, but the Governor & Council have directed me to proceed with the papers &c. by Land which I am now preparing to put into execution, and shall, I trust be in readiness to set out on Wednesday next. exclusive of our a/c^s. &c. I am to carry on the old Continental Money now in the hands of Gen^l Skinner, which he is to deliver to me at [2] at this place—my first 6 mo. Salary has been advanc'd me, and I have been negotiating for specie, I have purchas'd Some at 12/. Some at 12/6 and have given for none higher than 13/ the Dollar, which Doctor [Hugh] Williamson informs me is preferable to purchasing Tob^o., as the last he receiv'd netted him only a Dollar for 15/9—my next advance I purpose to trouble you with (if agreeable to you) to negotiate, out of which I hope to be able to pay part of my debts, in the mean time Should you learn that any of my creditors in your neighborhood have [3] any intention of calling on me for payment in New York, I will be much obliged to you to divert them from their purpose if possible, as it will be cruel hard upon me to be oblig'd to pay in specie when procur'd at Such disadvantage—I do not recollect of any debts¹⁰⁷ at present owing [by] me except to Mr. House to any of your neighbors except Capt. Respass, Mr. Farris & Mr. Hendrickson

I Shall write you from time to time when at New York, Shall be always happy to hear from you, & to have it in my power to render you any services there or elsewhere,

Please make my best compliments to M^{rs}. Blount & family, & believe me to be with esteem & respect, Sir. Y^r. Mo. ob^t. Sert

A. C. THOMAS

M^{rs}. Kidd's Compliments to M^{rs}. Blount

Addressed: Mr. John Gray Blount

Merchant

Washington

Honored by M Long

¹⁰⁷Thomas frequently gambled and probably had become involved in debt through this means. See Abishai C. Thomas to [John Gray Blount], New York, August 8, 1789, below, p. 501.

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

EDENTON 25th May 1789

Dear Sir

On the 8th Inst. I left New York & arrived here the 20th. My last Letters from your Brother William induce me to believe that he must be at Home by this Time but am uncertain. The Gov^r & Council had resolved to send on the public Papers & old Mony to New York under Care of Col. Thomas assisted by a Gentleman from Nixonton who had promised to go. That assistant who was to have been considered as a guard has tother Day entered his declination, he has changed his mind. The Gov^r. since my Return has sent an Express to Col. Thomas who may be expected here in 3 or 4 days and the Papers are to be detain'd until I am ready to go on with them, which I expect will be about 4 Weeks hence, in the meanwhile I wish I could have an Interview with your Brother William or yourself, I wish to know the State of your Map of our Western Country. Where is it, when will it be published! I think that 2 or 300 of them should be wrought off to be sold to the Northward viz in New Jersey Pennsylvania & Maryland, from which States we are to expect the greatest Number of Emigrants. The Map should perhaps not absolutely be given away, but it should be sold for very little [2] little more than the Price of the Paper & Striking them off on the rolling press. With such a Map I would propose to publish & give away a small Pamphlet of half a sheet describing the natural advantages of the Country &c. I wish there could be a Meeting of the Proprietors of large Tracts in our Western Country to agree on some Plan of Settling their Lands. The Expence of those Maps & of such Publications should be equally sustained & it might be a frugal Measure for every Proprietor to lay off his Land into Lots of 2 or 300 Ac^s. & give one third of the whole to a Colony of Emigrants. Suppose for Instance you had a Tract 3 miles broad and 10 miles long. Cut one mile off from either Side or from the middle of the Same & let the whole of that be given in small Plantations to Settlers who shall form a regular Settlement joining one another, or let them have it meerly for the prime cost. By the Time that 2 or 3000 more Families are Settled in that Country Lands must acquire a considerable Value. At any Rate the mode of diverting the Current of Emigrants from Kentucke to our own State deserves consultation. 10,000 or 20 thousand I forget which passed Fort Harmer last Year on

the Way to Kentucke. ie Men Women & Children. I have some Desire to have a Seat in the [3] Convention & shall try before I go to the Northward to look out some County that may promise me their Suffrage. Having doubts whether on Accot^t of my Office I may be eligible in the Assembly and not caring much about what Laws they may pass I shall not offer for a Seat there else I should offer for this Town, many of the Inhabitants having proposed it. Give my Compliments to your brother Thomas of whose arrival in America I was not informed till on the last Week. I am

Dr Sr Your obed^t Serv
HU WILLIAMSON

John G. Blount Esq^r
Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r
Washington

Benjamin Coakley¹⁰⁸ to John Gray Blount

Mr John Blunt

DrSir—PRINCETON 28 May 1789

The Schooner Jack arriv'd Safe at this place 24th Inst.—her Cargo is Landed in good order—it has been a fortunate circumstance—She even reach'd this far; the Two Men who Came Round in her are Indeed errant Villians—Partars [particulars] of them When I See you Which I hope Will be in 4 or 5 day's—

I have Ship'd on board her 12 Hhds Tob^a.—I sh^d. have Sent you 150 bushels Corn Which I have now Lying at Princeton,—but the *fortune Skipper* [*Fortune's* skipper]—Went from thence without my Knowledge—during my absence at Hertford Court[.] this disap^{mt}. will I am apprehensive, be an inconvenience to Mr. Love—Which I am exceedingly Sorry for—but he must impute it wholly to the *Rasscally Conduct* of the Skipper—amongst the 12 hhds Tob^a. you Will find one Mark'd thus "M 235-1353-145-1208ⁿ. Which is an exceeding hhd—I have Sent for Mr Love—

I am DrSir yr tud^s ob^t serv^t
BENJ. COAKLY

John Gray Blunt Esq^{re}.

Luke Robason to John Gray Blount

[June 1, 1789]

Sir/

I have Collected thurty head of your Cattle¹⁰⁹ which is all I Can hear of in my way and will be Glad youl Let me Know when youl Com after them as I may Trie to have them Reddy to geather for there is someny [so many] of the Cows Drie that they wonte Come up to Pen[.] Mr. Bland Desiers if you Please to send the Ballence of his Acounpts [Accounts] in Corn by the Bairer Mr. John Rowling for he is quight out I am Sr your^s L Robason

June ye 1st. Day 1789

Addressed: John Blount Esqr.

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

EDENTON 2nd June 1789

Dear Sir

On the 15th inst I am to be at Halifax on my Way to New York. I very much want some hard mony. Is any to be purchased at Washington. Could I be assured of buying 2, 3 or 400 Dhrs there and at what Price? The long Letter I wrote you since my Arrival here is unanswered.

I am Dr Sir Your obed^t Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

J G Blount Esqr

Addressed: [John] G Blount Esqr.

Washington

James Iredell¹¹⁰ to [John Gray Blount]

EDENTON June 6. 1789

Dear Sir

I received your favour of the 4th Inst. I was aware of some difficulties in an application in M^c.Connel's Case to the Court

¹⁰⁹It was necessary to "collect" them because they were allowed to forage over wide ranges.

¹¹⁰Iredell frequently handled cases for the Blounts.

of Admiralty, and at length advised him to sue only in the Bond, which receives the payment of treble costs. I accordingly issued a Writ against Pearser—The Penalty of the Bond is £500. And as it is only to secure a prosecution of the Appeal & treble Costs in case of condemnation. I don't imagine more than treble Costs can be recovered, and those I presume taxed Costs according to the Law in that particular governing the Courts. I am very much concerned that Mr. Scott should understand me that the whole Penalty at all events might be recovered, which I never thought, the Penalty being now to be considered as [a] Security for the treble Costs only. And that must have been what I intended, however my expression might have been misunderstood.

I was very glad to finish the business of the Commission and the additional trouble of staying half a day was of little consequence compared to the importance of that which I should have been say to have been the cause of delaying, especially when you and your Brother had so obligingly consulted my convenience.

I am Dear Sir

with great regard,

Your obedient Servant

JA. IREDELL

[*William Blount*] to *John Gray Blount*

GREENVILLE June 6th 1789

A Mr. Adams I believ Abraham has been with me today to purchase the Clay Root Land. He says he will give £250 for it, that he has a Tar kiln that he could soon run off of from 60 to 70 Barrells that he could pay down from £50 to £60—could pay you a pair of prise Oxen and a few good beef Cattle and that he will complete the Payment in the Course of the approaching Winter—I have promised him to make you acquainted with his Offer and that you will answer him as to the lowest price you will take You had best Address your Answer to my Care. John Haddock also told me as I went to New Bern that his Brother Billy Haddock would give you £300 for it and pay you 100 Barrells Tar next fall and must have Time to pay the rest.—I want to see you and had you not best

[2] come up and I will send for Adams for I think the selling the Land for ready pay an Object and I think Adams will go to £300. I would do the Business but you know I am a bad Bargain Maker.—Adams want your answer soon. Suppose you come up on the early part of the approaching Week.

Addressed: John Gray Blount

William Blount to John Gray Blount

[GREENEVILLE, June 12th 1789]

At Augusta I met with James Bloodworth heretofore Member from New Hanover there getting Bark for tanning being about to found a Tanyard and had much Conversation on the Subject of Tanning a Business to which he says he was bred. He says that as many Hands as can be employed in a yard will each give to the Owner 250 hard dollars annually at least. Richard Blackledge says that his Father's Tanner Joe I believe he is called belongs to his Mother for Life and then to Ben Blackledge & Nancy Hatch and that he may be hired from his Mother during her Life with his Wife and a Child or two for 30 Barrels of Corn a year payable I believe at New Bern.—He is perfectly Master of the Tanning Business in all its Branches.—

W^m. BLOUNT

[2] Besides this the fine large Houses and other Riches of the Tanners in Philadelphia, Baltimore and throughout Pennsylvania & Maryland are evident Proof of the profitableness of the Business.—

[3]

GREENVILLE June 12th 1789

Annexed is some Information on the Subject of a Tanyard offered to you as Hints with a wish to know your Opinion whether this Business might not be undertaken with Advantage all Circumstances being taken into Consideration particularly that of a Tanner being to be had at so low a price and he a Negroe. There are several good places about this Town to sink a yard and Washington is equally good.—I am

Your's &c &c

W^m. Blount

to

JOHN GRAY BLOUNT

[On back, in J. G. B's writing]

Hints from W^m. Blount to J. G. Blount respecting a Tanyard submitted for Consideration.¹¹¹—

Thomas Blount to [John Gray Blount]

TARB^o. 13th June 1789

Sir,

There is now a pretty considerable swell in the River & Bryant went this day to Bells' to load with about 40 Barrels, which I hope he will be able to deliver you in three days from this time—I have this moment heard that Gerrard got safe to Cumberland but have no letter from him—the news is brought by young Sewell who saw a man that went out with him therefore there must be Letters near at hand—My bro. Will^m. informs me that Simpson's Ship will not sail inless than 5 or 6 Weeks & for that reason, if you do not contradict this report I shall decline coming to Washington till the end of the Month. Y^{rs}

THO. BLOUNT

Amos Johnston¹¹² to John Gray Blount

TOWN CREEK 19th June 1789

Dr. Sir

by Mr. Jo^s. Howell you^l. Riceive four barrells of pork which I Shall thank you to Store for me & Sell it if aney opertunity offers at £ 6=0=0 Pr. barrell & if posable I Shall thank you to Send up Some Iron by Howell as I am in greate want, please to let me Know if the Lard is Sold and what Can be Done with Bacon I want if Posable to barter the Pork for Iron & Cotten

¹¹¹John Gray not only considered William's suggestion, but (as was his custom) acted on it. The tanning business did not turn out very well, but that was probably due to the poor management of Abner Neale, who seemed to lack both the energy and the initiative characteristic of the Blounts.

¹¹²Amos Johnston of Town Creek, was one of the Blounts' best local customers. He bought goods in wholesale quantities and with Benjamin Atkinson often loaded vessels for northern ports, the West Indies, or Europe.

Card[s] & a few pair of Wool Cards Some pot Iron also would
 Sell Such as pot Cart wheal Boxes &c—
 To Mr John G Blount

Washington—

Addressed: John G: Blount Esqr
 Washington

Pr Mr Jos. Howell

I am Sr. Yrs. &c.

AMOS JOHNSTON

James Barr to John Gray Blount

Satterday 20th June 1789—

Mr John G Blount

Dear Sir,

We have got over the Swash this Morning with Some difficulty & have Begun to take in, I am Sorry I have so much Reason to Complain[.] the tar we have got at South Deviding Creek is all in Verry bad order & Lay at Sundry diffrent places, had I known the order it was in & the Difficulty in getting it of [off], & that you Could not have fully Loaded the Vessel, I would have Returnd with the Vessel Empty, All the tar that was taken of[f] Below Washington is, all in bad order, as Capt. McDaniel will inform you, & there is no Possibility of Getting it Coopered or filled up in a proper Manner

I Make no Doubt youl, allow me to have it done in Phil^a. I cant Suppose you will Insist on my takeing the Tar in the order, I have got it on Board, If you do it is Contrary to oure agreement, I think the Vessel will Carrey aboute 150 Barrells more than we have

Upon the whole I Shall make but an Indifrent figure when I get home, with the Vessel not Loaded, I feare Mr Stuart will Reflect as we [2] Have met with so many heavey disappointments in your State, & I am truley Sorrey that any Part of them, comes to the Share of my Friend,¹¹³—

I have Before mentioned to you, if aney of my acquaintance failed in their promise he Reflected more than Common—I Cant help thinking you might have given me more Tar at Washington & Let some others have what Lay at the Lower Landings, the time you were at New Bern Cox Court [Coart]

¹¹³Barr often dreaded the criticism of the Blounts by his partner, James Stuart, who seemed to hold him responsible for all of their shortcomings.

Let a good Deal of tar go that was in good order & after you Came home you Let some go—Neare the Swash Stake or Stadle the Brig got agrounde & William Wallace¹¹⁴ came a Long Side with his Lighter at that time the Vessel Struk hard & Night Comeing on, & John Wallace away after his Logs, no time was to be Lost, I got him to Lighten the Vessel, the Next trip he made he Insisted on 1/6 Per Barrel Lighterage, your objecting against paying old Mr Wallace Left me no Recourse to take, & with some Dificulty would he agree to take an order on you [3] I hope you can get it Lowerd to 1/ Pr Bbl by Some Agree-ment with John Wallace as it will be unreasonable that I Should pay 6 more as John Wallace was not here Because you objected to pay the other—you may Rest ashurd that I will follow your directions as neare as Possible & Every thing in my power shall be done to Serve & oblige you please Remember me to Mrs Blount & all the familey, Please favour me with answer to this Letter as Soon as Possible with the accounts I am with Greate Respect your

Humble Sev^t

JAMES BARR

P. S. Capt Nimo Delivered us

97 Bbls Tar)

121 Ceaser look to the Bar) all in Bad order

Please pay Capt M^c Daniel th [—] pounds for the Cuntry Pilotage &

oblige your Humble

Sert

J BARR

John G Blount Esq^r

Addressed: John G Blount Esq^r.

Washington

Fav^d by Capt M^c Daniel

Joseph Palmer to John Gray Blount

[PINEY GROVE June 28, 1789]

Mr John G Blount, I have been to See the Cattle at Lawlys[.] their [There] is one Cow & yearling and one Stear[.] the Stear he has broke to the yoak, mark is Cross in one year [ear] and

¹¹⁴Probably John Wallace's son. Blount and Wallace, who owned the tavern and supply house on Shell Island, undoubtedly had an agreement providing for favor to be shown the Blount vessels clearing and entering at Ocracoke.

Swallow fork in the other, the Cow is Cross & hole in the Right, and Underbitt in the Left, they are Enterd to Mr Mafferty. Stray master and the time the Law allows the owner to prove his property is out Since the first day of May, but if the owner prove his property before September Court may git them By paying Mafferty his fees, or other ways they will be advertised then and Sold,¹¹⁵—I Expect Mr Blackledge has informed you they were advertised to be Sold I went to forbid the Sale—Mrs Hinrion & Constontine is Repeatedly writeing to Me about [2] their Lumber, I wish you to let me know what to do, I was Down the first of may and I Promised they Shoud have it in a few weeks. I wrote you but I got no answer, am So behind hand with my Crop, Else woud have Carred it down, I Coud not think of doing it 'till the Last of July, also I want to See you much[.] Cant Com till git my affairs in better order—

am with much

Esteem your ob^t

Huml. Ser^t

Jo^s. PALMER

Piney Grove

28th June 1789

Addressed: John G Blount Esquire
Washington

James Iredell to [John Gray Blount]

EDENTON July 1, 1789.

Dear Sir

I have received your favour of the 26th., and hope to avail of the oppertunity you have been so obliging as to acquaint me with by forwarding you about 100 Copies.¹¹⁶ Of those you will please to retain what you think proper for Washington and transmit the remainder when you can to Mr. [John] Sitgreaves. He is entitled to ten more for the Newbern Subscribers, and Mr. [Archibald] Maclain to fourteen more for those at Wilmington. The rest are for sale. Col^o. [William R.] Davie and myself proposed allowing a Commission for the trouble of sell-

¹¹⁵Cattle were branded according to state law. They were given such wide range that their ownership could be established only by recognition of the recorded brand.

¹¹⁶The revised North Carolina laws, which were the work of Iredell. Ashe, *History of North Carolina*, II, 104.

ing &c. The Management of this at Washington I beg leave to submit to you as you shall think proper. If any are sold at Washington I will be much obliged to you if out of the sales you will give such a gretuity for the trouble of conveying them there as you shall think sufficient.

Your Brother Jacob returned in perfect health a few days ago. Steele¹¹⁷ had returned, having done nothing, the Indians saying we were no People, having no head, and that they would not meet with us. Such was the report your Brother heard.

I am

Dear Sir

Yours very respectfully

JA. IREDELL

John Skinner to John Gray Blount

PERQ^s. [Perquimans County] July 3rd. 1789.

Sir.

I am concerned with my Brother in carrying on the wheat Manufactory, we have repaired the Mill & Bake House and are now ready for Grinding Baking &c. which we expect to do in the greatest perfection as we shall have a Man well acquainted with the business

Shou'd you want Bread or flour at any time we shall be glad to serve you on as moderate terms as it formerly sold for in proportion to the price of wheat. our flour will be of the [best] quality, I will thank you to write me what flour is worth with you & whether a load of Bread & flour wou'd sell at Washington—

I have nothing new to inform you of—your Acquaintance here are generally well no person dead or likely to die but a number almost ready to runaway through the hardness of the times.—My most respectful Comp^s. to M^{rs}. Blount, & am with the greatest

esteem Sir your

M^t. Ob^t. Serv^t.

JOHN SKINNER

¹¹⁷John Steele (1764-1815) was a well-known political figure of North Carolina. He was the son of Elizabeth Steele of Revolutionary note, was educated at Salisbury, North Carolina, and began his adult life as a merchant. In his twenties Steele became interested in politics and from the time he became a representative in the state assembly (1787) he held many public offices, including representative at the Hillsboro convention, congressman, and first comptroller of the Federal treasury. Wheeler, *Historical Sketches*, II, 383.

N. B. we have good Crops of wheat & expect it will sell for 8/2 P Bush^l. but no price has been offered, but a great number of purchasers are trying to buy.—

[marginal]

Shou'd you want a large quantity of Bread & flour. a Credit on Lucy's acct. agst. Col^o. Harvey's Estate or a Credit on Joshua Skinners Bond with A Harvey will answer as well as money¹¹⁸—

Addressed: Mr. John G Blount Merch^t

Washington

To the care of Mr Jacob Blount

Edenton

James Barr to John Gray & Thomas Blount

PHILADELPHIA 11th July 1789—

Mr John G Blount

Dear Sir

I have the pleasure to acquaint you that I arrived Safe after a Passage of 5 Days, found Mrs Barr & Family all well, I have disposed of All The Brigs Cargo the Tar from 9/ to 10/ per Barrell after Coopering & filling up the whole, the Loss on filling was greate as soon as I can get the Coopers Bill I will forward it for your Inspection & make no Doubt but you will allow what is Right we took oute 6 Blbs Tar oute of the Brigs Timbers which will Convince you in what order the tar was Shipped from North Carolina—The Brig we have sold & for no other Reason but the want of money & her Being too Small, at Same time it was oure Interest to have held her

I find upon Enquiry that a greate Quantity of 22 Intch Cyprus Shingles have Been Sold in oure Market for some time past, the[y] have Brought from 17/6 to 22/6 & No more[.] Seldom the[y] will Bring [2] More than 17/6, unless the former price would answer I think there is no Prospect, Tar has Kept the price Better & Later in the season than I have Known it the Spaniards have purchased A Good deal of that article, If you Could send a Small Cargo here soon it will Bring 10/ when put in good order Please to dispose of Aikens Boy the first opportunity & do all in your power for us with the whites¹¹⁹ by

¹¹⁸John Gray Blount was guardian for Lucy and Augustus Harvey.

¹¹⁹William White & Co. of Kinston, North Carolina, owed Stuart & Barr a debt. See Stuart & Barr to John Gray & Thomas Blount, Philadelphia, January 7, 1789, above, p. 451.

using your Influence & desiring your Brother William To do so[.] Mr J S [James Stuart] Seems much displeased that I have succeeded no Better in your state, Pray use your Endeavours to pay us, that I may Be Relived from Clamour Because you are my friend & acquaintance—

Since my Return to Philadelphia There has not come as much Rod Iron to this City as has Been Worked up into Nails, & it has not Been in the power of no Person to have Procured a Single Ton, Next week I am Promised one Ton which I Shall Send by the first Vessel to the Bar [3] to the Care of J Wallace if no Vessel offers for your place, I have Sent forward your Bill on Hazard but I have not yet got the money But expect it daily —The money due J Court [John Coart?] I will attend to when in my power A Thomas Left this for New York yesterday Dr Williamson is Here but I have not seen him

We are much Hurried having two Ships now in Port, Please present my Respects to Mrs Blount & Believe me to be with Real
Esteem your Humble Sert

JAMES BARR

Price Currant by Retaile

Pitch 15/ Turpentin ditto

Tar 10/ to 9/

Addressed: Mess J. G & T. Blount

Merchts.

Washington

Fav^d. by Cap^t. West

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

[NEW YORK, July 22, 1789]

Dear Sir

Near 4 Years Since a Tobacconist in Philad^a. Mr Leeper consigned to me 4 Brls Snuff in Bottles. It was by mistake Sent to Newbern instead of Edenton. Mr Sitgreaves paid the freight 20/ & Stored it with Mr Stanley. I have once and again requested of you to send for it but have never heard more on that Sub-

ject. Will you be so good as write to the Acting Ex^r. Mr Stanly; late Partner Mr Turner & request of him to send you the four Brls Snuff which you will take under your Care until we see which Way the Mony turns; whether more Paper or not.

I am Your obed^t Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

New York 22nd July 1789

John G Blount Esqr.

Addressed: John G Blount Esqr

Washington

William Polk¹²⁰ to John Gray Blount

TARBO. July 27th. 1789

Dear Sir.

Not long since I put some Grants into the hands of a Mr. John Rice to sell for me in some one of the Northern States, & gave him directions to make the remittance to yourself or Maj^r. John Dover of New. Bern what it may be in I as yet know not only that he has directions to purchase a Carriage with a part thereof—I have therefor to request the favor of you to receive whatsoever he may direct to you & answer the charges thereon if he has not done so & at the same Time to write me by way of your Brother at this place or Col^b. James [2] Porterfield Fayetteville who will forward this same as soon as may be, with such Letter or Invoice as *he* may send with the Vessel

What has become of our Western Map—is there any probability of its ever coming to maturity & of being any use to us beyond the Big Hill—That Country is fast settling many have gone there during this Spring & from the Temporary Treaty by Mr Steele made great hope of a much larger

How goes on Election bussiness you will be in the House I hope as well as Brothers W. R. & T. [William, Reading, and

¹²⁰William Polk was surveyor of the Middle District, supervisor of federal revenue (1790-1801), candidate for governor, and president of the state bank (1811-1819). He has been called a "monied man" with "a very general knowledge of human nature," and "good at a bargain." His second wife was the daughter of Philemon Hawkins of Warren County. He was an extensive landowner and had numerous land transactions with the Blounts. Legislative Papers, House of Commons, May 1784; Wagstaff, *The Papers of John Steele*, I, 313, 323; II, 479, 518, 534, 535, 673n.

Thomas] [3] My own is not secure but a great probability of success the Constitution will go down with the back Country
Now

Make my most respectfull Compliments to Mrs. Blount & believe me to be with very great esteem &

Friendship your

most Ob^t. Ser^t.

WILL. POLK

J. G. Blount Esq^r.

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r.

Washington

George Denisen to John Gray Blount

CAPE FRANCOIS August 1st 1789

Dear Sir,

I arrived here ye 23rd of July after a passage if 28 days Markets are Dull here for Everything Except flower Indin Corn or peas which I Shall Incloas the prices Current[.] I hope I Shall Sail in 8 or 10 Days Nothing Extroaderny happening and am with Respect Dere Sir your Mosst obediant humbl Servt

G DENNISON

N B pry Sir forward the other Letters oblige yours G D

Addressed John G: Blount Esq^r

Washington

N^o. Carolina

Pr. Captⁿ Avilson

Prices Current in Cape Francois viz

Molasses 55 Livre pr velt or 2 gallons

Salt 9 Bits Pr bb^l

Sugar from 40 to 48Livres p 100 lb

Coffee 24 to 28 Livre pr pround

Taffia 3 Livorers pr Gallon

Brandy 4 Livorers pr Gallon

Flower 16 Dollars pr bb^l. and Can be Entered in the Custom house here

Indian Meal 4 Dollars per bb^l.

Corn and Peas 3 Dolars per bb^l

Scantling 15 Livorers pr M

18 'nch Shingles 25 Livors pr M

R. Ok hh^d. staves 65 Do Pr M
 Long Do " 180 Livorers Pr M
 Tar 2 Dollars pr Bal. .
 Turkies 5 quarters of a Dollar
 Geese 3 quarters of ——— Do
 Ducks 4 bits
 foules 3 Do

Benjamin Russell to John Gray Blount

August 6th 1789

Dr Sir

The vessel that I am obligated to Build for Marshal is Raised and Ready for planking[.] her Stern is Cut near the Length for the Debth of hold in [I Men]tion in Contract and her ton timbers are two Short to Make Her the Debth between Decks as you Mention and Sundre other timbers and by addition of Longer timbers she may be built To your Request, I should Suppose the additional Iron for Knees and plank & So forth would be Near one Thosand W^t of Rought [wrought iron] and the price for doing of the Laid work two hundred pounds Good pay is the Least it Could be Considerd with Every thing found such as iron ocum [oakum] and turpentine [.] I can Let you know fore or five weeks from this or Sooner if Requestd But it will Make no Difference in the alternation till the top timbers are Ready To put in[.] I shall Come to Wasanton [Washington] in that Time if I can possible to See you on The account of your purchas from Marshal, I have done Some Considerable work for Marshal in Raising of his Sloop I hope will be in your power to Satisfy me for am Sir your Humble Serv^t

BENJ^a RUSSELL

Addressed: John G Blunt

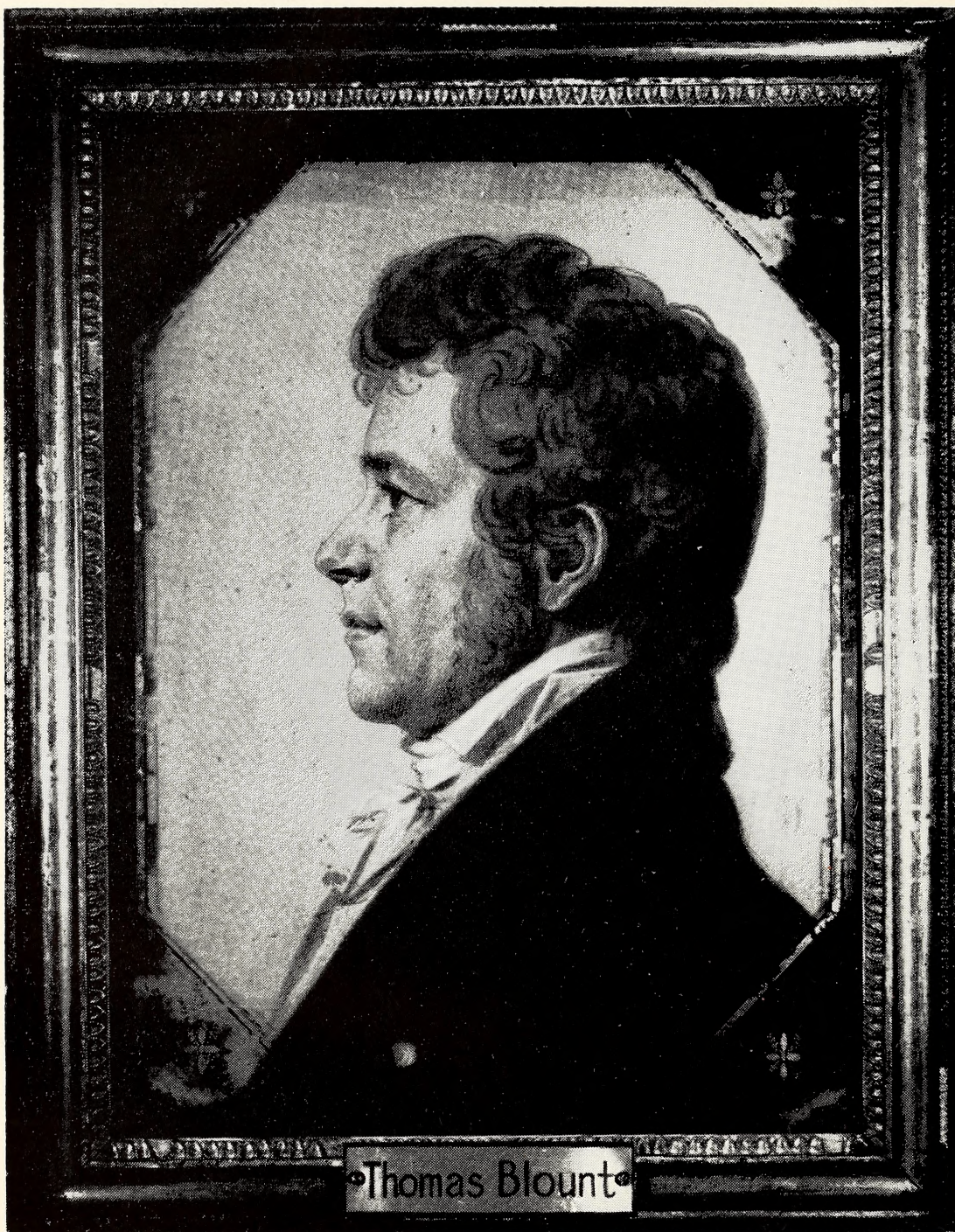
William Murdock to Thomas Blount
 Duplicate

LONDON Augt. 7th 1789

M^r Thomas Blount

Dear Sir

On the other side you will please receive your Acct. Covert as it stands with F. S. & M [Forest Stoddert & Murdock]



THOMAS BLOUNT
1759-1812
Tarboro, North Carolina

Balance in your favor £ 8.12.2^d. which remains at your command in any way you please & whenever its agreeable to yourself you have enclosed your Note to Thomas Courtney for £ 19.2.0 & that to Mr. Clagett for £ 46 to which you'll observe £ 2.6. Inst. is added. Mr. Fulton Brot in his Acco^t but for four lbs in your memorandum you said Six—I therefore thought I might venture to go to the expense of 19/6 for a frame¹²¹. I confess I did not expect to have seen the charge of £ 2.6.0 but I know it wou'd have provoked your spirit if I had said one word in opposition to paying it and I did not make a single comment on it. There has been a change of circumstances amongst some of your acquaintances since you left them. Poor Contee is in France and I fear not to return, go where he will his situation will not be very comfortable. Howel is about & under present appearances, very disgracefully so—I hope & wish his conduct may be cleared up in a manner to restore his character that above all things a man ought to preserve & its what every man may put above the reach of lasting calumny if he pleases—temporary reflections all men are subject to, and few indeed can steer clear of them tho ones actions may be as chaste as an angels. [2] Clagett goes on wonderfully, increasing his Business, his Capital & his consequence amongst all ranks of Tradesmen—all of them are candidates for his favours & are emulous to ensure a continuance of them. In short as to money matters he is certainly a Phoenix when classed amongst American Merchants in Europe. Without envy, its a wish near my heart that the honest endeavours of every other man shou'd be rewarded with equal prosperity. I have no wish to be rich & see other men starve, yet its the indispensible duty of every man to use laudable economy & indispensible duty of every man to use laudable economy & Industry to advance himself & put poverty at defiance. farewell Dear Sir I will not trie you any more with this moralizing Subject.

Yours

truly

WILL^m MURDOCK

¹²¹This apparently is a reference to the portrait of Thomas Blount, which is said to have been painted by the noted artist, St. Menin. The bill enclosed describes the frame, called "Pizzie" frame, as a "Broad carv'd frame Gilt in party [partly?] Contor'd Burnish Gold." This picture is in the Hall of History at Raleigh, North Carolina.

Original went by the Powaton Cap Jeffrys—A ship of Mr Crews
—The Picture was to be delivered to Mr John Cowper

WILL—

Baltimore dec-27

	58
forw ^d	118
	<hr/>
for ^d	616
	<hr/>
	7:16

Addressed: Mr Thomas Blount
Washington
care of Mr. Jn^o [Cowper]
Edenton

[*William Blount*] to *John Gray Blount*

GREENEVILLE August 7th 1789

Inclosed you will find a Letter for Judge Pendleton and another for Owens & Thompson. Judge Pendleton lives four Miles from Savannah and is frequently in Savannah. You had best instruct M^cDaniel to deliver the Letter himself then there can be no excuse for not answering. Owens has great Prejudices in favour of N^oCarolina and his old friends in Carolina and has a very great desire to eat some Carolina Hams which he says are better than any other in the World: if you have any to spare I would advise the sending him a few good ones but if not of the best kind dont send any for he has boasted much of Carolina Bacon at the same time write him a friendly Letter it will not be lost for there is no more friendly Man. If M^cDaniel lodges on Shore the House [which] Owens & Thompson board in and have for years past is a good one. At Savannah when Shingles that are brought to Market without being thrown in the Water are at 4 dollars per 1000 those that are rafted are only 3 dollars. I see by my Minutes made at Charleston that 22 Inch Shingles were shipped from there also at 4 dollars per 1000.—last year—[2] Had you not best send a couple of small Casks of Nails by M^c. Daniel? Had not M^cDaniel best go over to the Spanish Garrison at Amelia and make his own observations as to what can be done there in future and if pos-

sible find if a Contract for Pork can be taken up and at what & what the Barrels must weigh for the Northern Pork I think weighs but 200 lb and with that they have heretofore been supplied.—If he does go to Amelia there did lately live there a M^{rs}. Murray whose Maiden Name was Blount She is an acquaintance of mine indeed claims Cousin with me, She did keep a Tavern at Amelia, was the favourite of the Governor's Son who commanded at Amelia[.] if M^cDaniel should find her there he had best let her understand that his Vessel belongs partly to me and the Governors Son is himself much attached to the Americans—Blackledge tells me that he gave you a Copy of Seagroves Letter to me had you not best furnish M^cDaniel with a Copy.—At St. Marys M^cDaniel had best be very particular how he [3] lets any part of his Cargo out of his Hands to the Citizens of Georgia without Payment in hand and at Savannah he had best consult Owens & Thompson before he trusts any Man an hour for there are many people in Georgia who live by there Wits & Roguery than any where on Earth beside in proportion to the Number of People—A Copy of Seagroves Letter will operate as a Letter of Introduction from Seagrove—If the Persons to whom my Letters of Introduction should not be at Home nevertheless they may be serviceable to M^cDaniel if he should show them to other People even at Amelia.—Read the Edict of the King of Spain in the paper¹²²—Many people are sending Inquiries about Salt—

Addressed: John Gray Blount

Mr. Baldwin

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK 8th Aug^t. 1789

Dear Sir

Yesterday the President reminded Congress by a Message that the Revenue Business being over, the Affair of the Indians claims their Attention & Gen^l. Knox communicated the Message who also communicated many Papers respecting Hostilities by the Indians & by the Whites who seem to have incroached on the Indians. The Congress to Day, Doors shut, have been reading the Papers &c. My Information which is

35 ¹²²He may have reference to the Nootka Sound incident.

from the best Quarter states that it is in Contemplation to appoint, according to the Suggestion of the President three Persons Commissioners to treat with the Southern Indians, for Peace. I think you may be assured that no more Lands will be bought of the Indians. It will be considered and Determined by the Consent or agreement of the Indians what Lands have already been fairly purchased by the Union or by the Several States. The Indians will be told that on their faithfully abiding by their Lands the Whites shall not in any Case cross the Lines to Settle on the Indian Lands & that no Sales of Land are to be made by the Indians except to the United States. Posts will I think doubtless be placed on the Partition Lines. The Troops there Stationed will equally curb the White and Red Savages. The Operation of such arrangements will naturally raise the Value of Lands fairly purchased from the Indians, and you may believe that most of the Members of Congress have considerable Tracts in this Predicament. This Circumstance will probably induce them to see the measure [2] measure in a favorable Light, which may otherwise be defended by strong arguments.

It occurs to me that you have large Tracts of Land in a Quarter that has not been purchased by the State from the Indians there are other Persons say Tho^s Person &c who have Tracts equally large & perhaps equally good in some Part of Davidson County or to the North of Tennessee River in a Country that has been fairly purchased. Would it not be prudent in you to try to exchange 30 or 40 Thousand of your Mississippi Lands for other Lands nearer Nashville in the Purchase! I think it would be a great Speculation and must be effected soon if ever.

Morgan's Scheme¹²³ of a Settlement West of the Mississippi I think it fully defeated. The Governor of New Orleans it is said ordered him into Custody & threatened to put him in Irons if he should sell a single Acre of his Catholic Majestic Land. At any Rate Morgan is returned and living quietly at Home in Prince Town—This ansurs ill for the Speculators on that Subject.

I repeat it that I think the Lands not already purchased from the Indians are not like to be purchased for many Years

¹²³See above, p. 463, n. 94.

to come, and in this private Belief was I in Carolina I would endeavour to make Exchanges accordingly.

I am Dr Sir

Your obed^t Serv^t

HU WILLIAMSON

Jn^o G. Blount Esq^r.

Addressed: John G. Blount Esq^r

Merch^t.

Washington

N:C:

Abishai C. Thomas to [John Gray Blount]

NEW YORK 8th August 1789

D. Sir

Yours of 22nd Ult^o. with the two hundred barrels Rosin is Safe to hand, your information respecting the price of that article has been premature, Doctor W——[Williamson] says false, it has not been sold lately for more than 16/, except by retail at the Ship Chandler's Stores, I spent best part of two days in trying the Market, and had the assistance of Mr Ramsey & Doct^r. W; have therefore only sold 50 blls to pay the freight & stor'd the balance agreeably to your directions—I offer'd to take part in Goods even to one half, but more could not be obtain'd, and as it is an article they make here, and a small quantity supplies the Market I think the probability is that it will not rise—

Pitch is considerably in demand at this time, a Small Cargo I suppose might be shipp'd to advantage, provided it could arrive prior to a Supply [2] from any other place, it will now command 16/. and is scarce,—Tar is 11/. Turpentine 14/. also in demand—I feel myself much oblid'd by your addressing this Cargo to me, and shall be happy in a continuance of your favors where I can transact the business as well as another.

Your friendly admonition respecting that scandalous propensity to G——g [gaming] which has heretofore so closely pursued me, is thankfully receiv'd and plac'd to the proper account, I am very Sensible to the injury it has done me in the estimation of good men and of the disadvantages I have la-

bour'd under on that account, notwithstanding which I could not at once relinquish it, and this last affair at Edenton has given me more real concern than any thing of the kind that has happen'd, not on account of the Money I lost (that [3] was trifling) but on account of the injury my reputation may have Sustain'd with some fine individuals of that place whose good opinion I once flatter'd myself I had obtain'd and which I Should be very proud to regain, if this is impracticable the Devil has done his worst and I Suppose will quit me, be that as it may, I am now at his defiance and I challenge him and all his Associates let them come in whatever Shape they please ever to lead me into such a Scrape again, this you will Say is a rash promise, but I am not apt to make Such, Thank God I have business Sufficient on my hands here to divert my attention from every other pursuit and as I have determin'd to justify the confidence placed in my by the state as far as my abilities are competent, I trust by the time this business is compleated I Shall be perfectly wean'd from all vile propensities and that [4] that I Shall return to the confidence of my friends—I Send you some papers, in addition to which I have no news to give you, except that in consequence of the presidents address of Friday relating to Indian affairs the Doors of the House of representatives were yesterday kept Shut & the Gallaries clear'd, nothing of their proceedings has transpir'd—please make my best compliments to M^{rs}. Blount, M^r. & M^{rs}. Harvey &c. & believe me to remain

Dr. Sir

Your mo. ob^t. Ser^t

A C. THOMAS

John Evans to John Gray Blount

PHILAD^a. August 28. 1789

Respected Fr^d.

John G Blunt

As I expect those hatts are sold I sent on commission for Sale sometime Since & understanding that Tobacco is low in the Southern States would esteem it a favour your remitting the neat proceeds of my adventure in good Merchantable Tobacco the first opportunity [I] am they Wellwisher

JOHN EVANS

As Tobacco is sometimes damaged by the mode of bringing it to Market that which is waggoned to your parts is more Saleable than the way of roleing it—

Tobacco is at 25/ P hund.

Beeswax—2/ P lb

Addressed: John Glount esqr—

Mercht.

Washington

North Carolina

Favour of H Tool

Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK September 1st 1789

Mr J. G. Blount

Sir

Your favor by way of Philadelphia I had the pleasure to receive on the 23rd Ult^o., the matter has been duly attended to and a return is in readiness to be made by the first vessel which Shall offer for your Port, I Should have Sooner answered you but did not wish to Saddle you with postage¹²⁴, however as I Suppose you must be anxious to know how your business goes on here I venture this by Post, Rozin continues 16/. Pitch 16/. Beeswax 2/2—I expect we Shall yet be oblged to sell for the Same we could have first got, I have taken Storage for a month which will expire on the 8th inst, you may therefore expect the nett proceeds by the first safe [2] Safe conveyance, to Washington, New Bern or Edenton.—

If you can in the course of trade, or in payment of bad debts, pick up any more final Settlements than you may want for your Selves they will be a good thing for me, where interest has been paid on them up to January 1788 they are worth here 4/11 Say 5/ in the pound *on the face*, where interest has not been paid they are worth Something more, So that if not to be had on better terms, it will be better for me to procure them @ 7/6 the first & 8/ the later kind or quality, than to purchase almost any kind of produce, or Specie, unless the paper has appreciated & Dollars can be procured for less than 12/. Which I hope will be the case prior to my next draft which will

¹²⁴Postage rates were so extremely high that many subterfuges were taken to avoid paying them.

be about 1st December, when I Shall take care to forward the [3] the necessary orders for my warrants being put into your hands—

Congress have been on the business of amendments, they have passed the representatives & are now before the Senate, I cannot enclose them, until a water conveyance offers—

Gen^l Lincoln, Mr. Cyrus Griffin, & Col. Humphries, Commissioners to treat with the Southern Indians Sail'd yesterday about 2 oClock for Savannah,

Doctor Williamson has memorial'd [Congress] on the Subject of N. C. Vessels paying [the?] 50 Cents Tonnage, his memorial is committed, The Doctor & Family are well, I am holding myself in order for a Christening,—please tender my best respects to Mrs. Blount, Mr & Mrs Harvey &c. & adieu, I am

With regard Sir

Yr. mo. ob^t Ser^t.

AC, THOMAS

[Marginal]

I wish you would put yr. W.B. in mind of a receipt which he has for a Certificate of Col Long's¹²⁵, get & forward it to me, two of Col Long's Sons are here at School, & depend on this for support, they will very soon be in absolute necissity

Addressed: Mess^{rs} John Gray & Tho^s. Blount

Merchants

Washington

De La Forest¹²⁶ to John Gray Blount

NEWY^k. 5. 7b^{br} [September] 1789

Sir

An absence of two months has prevented me from Receiving in time your Favor of the 21st. of last July and Forwarding you immediately my most Sincere Thanks. The opossum was delivered to my House by Captain Stephen Miner in perfect good Health and I Found her in the same situation with an encrease of family. I find [myself] much indebted for this Kind

¹²⁵Probably the sons of Colonel Nicholas Long of Halifax County, noted in the American Revolution.

¹²⁶A French consular agent in the United States.

attention to my Friend Mr. Hawkins [Benjamin Hawkins] and to you Sir; I wish my Services could in return be acceptable to you.

I am with great sincerety

Sir

Your Most obedient
humble Servant

DE LA FOREST

J G Blount Esqr.

Addressed: J G Blount Esqr.

Washington North Carolina

To the Care of Mr Lee Dekeyser Fayetteville

James Iredell to John Gray Blount

EDENTON Sept 9th. 1789.

Dear Sir

As it is of consequence that the enclosed letter should reach Mr Glasgow¹²⁷ safely, I take the liberty to recommend it to your obliging care. It concerns the Revisal of the Laws, which I am now busily employed in. We had lately an unfortunate delay for want of Paper, but that want being now pretty well supplied I hope the work will proceed rapidly.

I am

Dear Sir,

with sincere respect,

Your faithful &

obedient Servant

JA. IREDELL.

P. S. A vote on the subject of amendments (nearly agreeing with the Report) passed the House of Representatives the 24th. Aug.—They proposed adjourning on the 22 of this month.

Addressed: John Blount Esq.

Washington

¹²⁷Secretary of State in North Carolina.

*John Sitgreaves to John Gray Blount*NEW BERN 10^t. Septembr. 1789.

Dear Sir.

Guernsey handed me last Evening your Letter with fifteen Copies of the Debates instead of 16 as you mentioned, as I took them out of the Bags myself I am inclined to think the mistake was probably with yourself, & that Guernsey is not culpable—.

If my dear Sir the Sketch given of your Fathers Character in Martins paper met with the approbation of his Family, it will give me much pleasure & I am sure Col^o. [Richard Dobbs] Spaight¹²⁸ too; Justice I know cou'd not be rendered his memory in so few words by any pen, it was to be lamented one more equal to the Subject was not used on the occasion—. Such as it is was the mere effusions of our Minds, divested of every impulse but that of Truth—. as to myself the remembrance of him will remain with impressions to my latest Hour, that are not to be described—I know I have lost what is most rare and valuable on Earth a Real Friend—.

Adieu.

JN^o SITGREAVESMy Comp^s. to M^{rs}. Blount.

I still continue very weak & much oppressed by fevers

J G Blount Esq^r.Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r.

By Guernsey

*James Robertson to William Blount*DAVIDSON COUNTY 21st. Sept 1789

Dear Sir.

I Beg leave to Interduce to your Acquaintance Cap^t William Donelson,¹²⁹ a young Man of the greatest—Punctuality in all Cases. what Whatever. he is Ellected from our County as Sineter. By a Majority most Singular, for he never Declared himself a Candidate. untill the moment the Roles was Opened. Any Assestance he may Require in the House. of you will Be

¹²⁸John Sitgreaves and Richard Dobbs Spaight wrote Jacob Blount's obituary. See the Appendix to this volume, p. 562.

¹²⁹William Donelson, the son of John Donelson and brother-in-law of Andrew Jackson.

greatfully Acknowled by me and will be greatly Acknowledge By him Self. as he is a young man unacquainted with the political Matters of State Business. —

you Were Speaking to me. Respecting General Moors Tract of Land With Out you Can get a law Passed. to Divide those Large Tract^s. of Land. Several of the Officers must loose Considerable [of] their[s] Peticular General More and the heirs of Col^o Dixon and Several Others yet unlocated. if their Can be a Law Passed to get General Moors Tract Divided I could Re- comind you to purchase for the Part that can be got is Ex- ceedly good and I will See to the Surveying of it Emedately as Soon as I can get a letter from you and the Ballance of the warrant. I would locate to the Best Advantage in my power Should General Smith¹³⁰ think proper to Resign his Commis- sion & Cannot be prevailed on to hold it longer I Would Recom- mend Col^o. Robert Hays. as I Expect their will be other Gentle- men in nomination But for the Advantage of this country. I would prefer Hays—

As for the news of this country. I Refer you to the Gen^t who Hands you this.

I am Dear Sir your most Ob Ser^t

JAMES ROBERTSON

N. B The Gen^l. Who Hands you this thinks with me that it would a Verry favereable Circumstance for this country. for you to go in to Congress early.

J. R.

John Armstrong¹³¹ to William Blount

HILLSBOROUGH Oct. 6th. 1789

Deer Sir,

I arived at this place a few days ago to answer to a writ sarved on me, by the treasurer for a ballance due to the State from the land office, haveing kep back a final Setteltment with the Comptroler untill I knowed the the disposition of my friends on this Ocation I wish to know what they meen, if they are determind to make a Sacrifise of me, let them say so, or Imedately, give som Satisfaction how I am to Settelt;

¹³⁰Probably General Daniel Smith.

¹³¹John Armstrong was entry taker of the North Carolina Land Office, set up in 1783. As revealed in this letter, he was too much of an opportunist to serve his state well.

for men that have deceived me in their promises I hop you will not take this to Your self because I know You to be a man of more honour then let me Suffer in any degree where, You know of Your Own knowledge I recived no Benifet, from the Indulgence [g]iven You or any other real friend, I have Commenced [su]it against all others Exept those answering the above Description, You and Your Connections I hop will not Bring me to that sitnation, as I mean to attend at the assembly the first ten days they are to meet for that purpose, which will be the last time of asking I make no doubt but You will be Readey to Settel— Col^o Benton one of my securiteys is much allarmed, You likiwise knew of a Judgement Mr. Willson Blount—Obtained against Armstrong & Doharty for upward of four hundred pounds for which You was to answer to him £100 Besides Y^r. Deb^t. in the land office for an Account of transfirs [transfers] &c^t. and a draft You drew on my Account from Col^o. Carrinton for 179. dollars, this I fully Expected You would Slap in W. [Wilson] Blounts Acct Our affect^s is now under Execution would be glad You Could Stop the Sale untill after the Next Superior Court in Newbern

I am with Respect Y^r. Humb^l. Servant—

JN^o ARMSTRONG

Col. W^m. Blount

turn Over

[2] if You will be kin Enough to Stand my friend at this time Nothing But death Shall Ever stop me from doing Every good office that lys in my power toward You, at this time I have nothing more particklar to acquaint You of, Pleas to remimber My love to Y^r Brothers and Still Remains Y^r affectioned friend & Humble Servant

JN^o. ARMSTRONG

Addressed: Col^o. William Blount

County

Honourd B Cap^t Jarade [sic]

John Haywood to John Gray Blount

HILLSBORO' October 13th 1789.

Dear Sir,

On Searching the Journals of the late Assembly I found the Resolution of which you made mention to me; as it is conceived

in positive terms I am under the disagreeable necessity of obeying it, and Send herewith inclosed a Writ to that end; which permits me to request you will deliver to the Sheriff, unless you have very particular reasons for wishing it not delivered: I delayed issuing this Writ until the present day, in order that it might not be returnable to the late Court.¹³²—Agreeably to your Request I mentioned to the Attorney Gen^l. your Wish, that this Suit should be brought in the Superior Court of New Bern district, who expressed himself as tho' he would have been pleased with obliging you; but Said, it was right and most proper that it Should be brought in the Court of this district where the Vouchers are. The Suit brought against the Treasurer by Mr Campbell which you wished determined before yours Should be heard, has been dismissed by Campbell at his own cost; for what reason I know not.

I flatter myself you are already So well convinced, both of my gratitude towards and [2] and disposition to Serve you, that it is altogether unnecessary I Should Say any thing on that head, or that I Should make mention of the disagreeable Sensations I experience from this Act of duty: I will only then ask you to do me the justice to be assured, my feelings could not be more wounded were I under the necessity of proceeding against my Brother or myself, than they are in the present instance.

The Superior Court is closed here without any thing unusual having taken place.—As for News, I have none worth telling to write you.

Be pleased to offer my Comp^s. in the most respectful and acceptable manner to Mr^s. Blount; do me the favor to accept them yourself, and believe me,

With the Sincerest Regard
and esteem

your Ob Sert.

J. HAYWOOD

There is lodged in this office a Report against you for one hundred pounds as Deputy to a Convention in Verg^a or Maryland—this I mention from a belief you knew not any thing of it.—

¹³²He probably refers to the charges against William Blount, who was said to owe the state for the Indian goods.

JOHN G BLOUNT ESQ^r

Addressed: John Gray Blount esquire

Washington

Gen^l. Armstrong

Hugh Williamson to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK 17th Oct^r 1789.

Dear Sir

Since the inclosed was written we learn that Gen^l Lincoln & the other Commissioners had the Prospect on their Arrival in Georgia of Seeing a vast Body of Indians at the Treaty. The Commissioners are authorised to offer the Indians very good Terms. I think the Indians will infallibly accept of the Terms which must produce a good Peace with those Indians and a Constable will be appointed to keep the Peace viz a few Continentals. A Treaty with the Cherokees is next in Contemplation & I am in Hopes that our Assembly will not refuse to agree to a very reasonable Proposal which will probably be made to them—whether the Convention considerates or not. The Effects of such Measure will also be a good & firm Peace with the Cherokees. I need not tell you how much to be desired by our Western Friends.

I have just given the Count de Monstier, who Sails perhaps tomorrow for France, Sundry Propositions respecting our Commerce in Naval Stores as also respecting the Mississippi. I wish greatly to See a regular Trade to France in Naval Stores. If our State confederates & Paper Payments are prohibited I propose forth with to adventure to a [2] a considerable Extent in Commerce, believing that Industry in N C promises the Possessor more advantage than in most of the States for this Simple Reason that So few of us possess it.

I do not Say that I am weary'd of politics, for if my fellow Citizens are willing to entrust me with Some Part of their Confidence either in the Senate or House of Representatives I shall attempt to Serve them but I consider this as a very Secondary Object I wish to lean on better and more independent Props for the Support of a Family.

I am very Sorry that Maj^r. Gerrard was not able to See the Western Lands. I wish very much to know Some Thing about

the true State of the Soil that has been So much praised—There is a possibility of making Settlements in that Country.

I am D^r Sir Y^{rs}

HU WILLIAMSON

Addressed: John G Blount Esq:^r

Washington

N: C:

Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK 19th Octo. 1789

Sir

I had Sent your Money by Mr. Hodge prior receipt of your favor of the 24th Ult^o. I have notwithstanding Sent you a Sett [of] Books, their price 18/4 Dollars, which I will thank you to remit me prior to Setting out to the assembly, my reasons for Soliciting this I gave you in a Letter by post on the 12th Inst.—I am so engaged with the public accounts & making up dispatches to be laid before the Assembly that I cannot at present attend to my own business, in my next I Shall make arrangements for your receiving my pay &c., in the mean time I write to the Governor requesting him to put my warrants into your hands, Be so good as to convey the packets & letters herewith to him, if you do not go on to the first of the session pray forward them by the first safe conveyance, they contain our public com [2] communications, which we could not push forward in time through any other channel without Saddling his Excellency with postage

Doctor W. is [a father] as you may See by the inclosed, I receiv'd a broad hint on Saturday evening that my company could be dispensed with in the office for a few days, so I removed such Papers as I had immediately to act upon to my own room, Yesterday morning I sent a note of enquiry as to the health of the Family & the enclosed is the Answer—We are in fine spirits, Madam is as well as can be expected this morning & the Boy Well—If our State adopts the Constitution, and I trust She will, probably my colleague may become a member of Congress, in that case a new arrangement may be necessary in our Agency, on this [3] head I flatter myself with the friendship & patronage of yourself & Brothers, I shall commu-

nicate my sentiments on this business in a future Letter. In the mean time & always believe me to be

With real regard

Sir

Your very hum^l Ser^t

A C. THOMAS

W Jones's Letter & Col. Longs via Tarboro)
the balance to Fayette)

Addressed: John Gray Blount esq^r.

Merchant

Washington

Sloop Little Joseph Capt. Billings

[Attached note]

COL. THOMAS

Mrs. Williamson has about an Hour ago brought me a Son. She is in good spirits & the Child perfectly well.¹³³

H.W.

Sunday Morning

11 O Clock

Mary [Mrs. John Gray] Blount to Suckey [Mrs. Jacob] Blount

November 2 [1789]

Dear Sister

I with pleasure receiv'd your letter by last post & was much pleas'd to hear you & Eliza were well I have bin verry unwell since you left this till within a few days past & William has not got quite well I shall look for the 25 of this month with pleasure to see you hear again would add to the happiness of my Family. the boys are & have bin in good health. I have not heard from Newbern since last weak & then not perticularly from your Mama she has not bin sick since she was hear that I have heard they h[ave] bin verry sickly & a number died with the yellow fever none of your acquaintance but Mr. John jones that I recollect. I hope you are pleas'd with Eadenton as Mr Blount wishes to live there[.] your absence makes this place verry dull to us Lucy [Mrs. Reading Blount] has not bin hear since you left this her Children as all had the Flux Carolina is

¹³³This was Williamson's second son. His children are not mentioned in J. G. de R. Hamilton's sketch. *Dictionary of American Biography*, XX (1936), 298-300.

the poorest Child you ever saw but are getting better, love without number from my Family to yours I am your affectionate Sister

M BLOUNT

P S Harriott & Olivia
are grown & wants
to see Aunt Suckey & Eliza

From
J G Blount

Addressed: Mr Jacob Blount
Ednton
P Post

Enclosure

[Washington. n. c.]

Take Black Jack root 1 oz of Cammonile flowers 1 oz—Woods plantain 1 oz—put it into 1 quart of hard cider—with 50-10^d Nails—in an iron pot—let it stand 24 hours—then strain it through a coarse cloth. Then put it in a clean iron pot—with 1 pint of old Rum—& 1^{lb} of brown sugar—& stew it—until it becomes a thick syrup—Take a tea spoonful-three times a day before eating—but previous to entering upon the above, medicine—it is necessary to take a dose of calomel & Jalap. If the above directions are strictly attended to & persever'd in—relief will certainly follow—after which it may be discontinued
Recipe—for Mrs Weddell

Ebenezer Love to John Gray Blount

NASSAU NEWPROVIDENCE¹³⁴ Nov^r. 8. 1789

Mr. John Gray Blount

Dear Sir/ Its with the greatest Pleasure I write you a few lines Informing you off my being well Hopeing it may find you together with Your good Family the same which Please make my Respectfull Compliments to: Intend^d. Comeing in the same Vessel I was In last June. but on Acc^t. of the Bad Payments I rec^d. from the Owner was Obligated to decline: however I am well Informd she is Intending to your Place and comes consigned to Your Direction: I do not Know how true but If the

¹³⁴Letters written to the Blounts indicate the expanding areas of their trade.

case. she comes through no Recommendation of my'ne and would wish on Acc^t. your. Interest. that you would not by any means' Ship any more than what Effects may come to your Hands, as you may be ashured the Remittances for Payment may be along while, if ever you gett them, This I have an Opportunity of Knowing and only Acc^t. of the Friendship you have pleased to treat me with give you this Hint, althou you can Secure yourself By takeing a Bottomneque on the Sloop which I would do If ship any worth while more than the Effects. It wont be long before I shall take a Voyage to Your Place that If an Opportunity Offers please to Write me. and Send me the Prices Current and Inform me what will Answer best with You: I am with the utmost

Respect Your Sincere Friend

EBENEZER LOVE

John Gray Blount Esq^r)

Merchant Washington)

[2] P. S. The Bearer of this Is One Capt John Moore Cockburn. which If comes to your Place will be Extreemly Oblige'd to you for any Civilitys you may be Pleased to Shew him and shall ever be greatly Acknowledge by Sir Yours

EBEN LOVE

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r.

Merchant

Washington

N^o Carolina

Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK Novembr. 15. 1789

Dr Sir

I wrote you a long Letter a few days Since by a Mr. Elting, who Doctor Williamson is acquainted with, lest that Letter Should have miscarried I shall here recapitulate some things which it is absolutely necessary for you to know—I enclos'd an order in your favor for my next 6 Months Salary £384, I requested you to pay into the hands of Major Absalom Tatom £51. to be by him paid to Sundry of my Creditors as by a memorandum enclos'd would appear, I requested you to pay to Sundry other Creditors £87.10 and with the balance I re-

quested you to Send me 450 Dollars or something that would command that sum here, I have now nothing to add on that head,—I handed in [2] in your proposals for carrying the mail on Thursday the 12th Inst. no other proposals had then been made, this is the last day for making proposals, but being Sunday I cannot know anything of our Success until tomorrow morning I shall attend to this the first thing, I also made proposals for the Wilmington Road in behalf of Mr. Neale at 10 Dollars P Mile, M^c. Kenzie this year has but 8 or 200 dollars P quarter which is but little more, Mr. M^c.Cabe is now here by him you shall know every thing done or to be done in the premises.

I have heard that it is in agitation to emit a new paper currency in N^o. Carolina,¹³⁵ Should such an event take place, I hope the honorable Assembly will take it into their Serious consideration that in the *present* State of the currency, 'tis as much as their Servants abroad can do to make both ends [3] ends meet, that therefore if a new emission should get into circulation they would be pleased to take order for paying their faithful Agents in such manner as to prevent their being Sufferers by any depreciation which may happen—I mention this to no other member but yourself, in full confidence that your friendship will induce you to espouse the cause &c.—Adieu, my best wishes attend you, my respects to your Brothers & all friends,

I am D^r Sir

Y^r. very obt^t Ser^t.

A C THOMAS

pray have a Letter ready written to inform me of the adoption of the constitution & send it in a Balloon if you can find no other conveyance the moment it takes place.

A. T.

Tar is 18/.—20 has been & now can be had, why have you not had some at Market^s. 16 to 18 may be had also for Pitch & Turpentine, Rosin stands at 16.

Addressed: John Gray Blount esquire

Fayette-ville

Care of the Hon^l. Josiah Collins

¹³⁵No record of an emission at this time has been found.

Abishai Thomas to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK 20th Novembr. 1789

D Sir

I wrote you a hasty Letter two days ago by Mr M^c. Cabe who was then in Such a hurry to be off that I had barely time to think, much more to commit my thoughts to paper, but adverse winds &c. has detain'd him, He has been endeavouring to contract with the Post master general to carry the Mail from Wilmington to Charleston, he has offer'd at 2400 dollars, and to take in the hands of RB [Richard Blackledge?] (*who is in arrears*) 300. These terms I know may be had, indeed 2500 might have been, had it not been for M^c. Cabe's dabbling, what think you of this? I shall see Mr. Osgood before M^c. [Cabe] Sails, and know the terms they have parted on, I have already been asked if I thought you would undertake it, I could not give a direct answer, but if you incline to make Such a speculation I am of opinion the vacancy will be open until you can write me, I am apprehensive to the undertaking is too great for M^c.Cabe's bottom, *the best of security will be insisted on*, but he has had fair play, and if he fails 'tis no fault of yours or mine, if you Step in; no other Person [2] person has as yet interfer'd with him, nor do I Suppose there will, as there never has been any regular Contract or proposals made for that part of the line. [November] 22nd, M^c.Cabe goes off without a final answer he has laid in Proposals for 2500 dollars the year, to take 300 or the balance due from Mr. B in part of the last quarterly payment, and to have four hundred Dollars in advance, He has made another proposal to take it two years for 4000 dollars, taking Mr. B in last payment of first year, & having the same advance,—in support of this he alledges that he could make more by the 4000 for the 2 years than by 2500 for one, as by the end of the first he would have his matters so arranged that the expences attending the 2nd would be trifling when compar'd with the first, The post Master general Seems inclined to favor the last proposal, in short the getting the arrears from B. appears to be an object with him & if Mr. Cabe can procure the necessary Sureties there is no doubt but one or the other will be acceded to—The P. M. G. will [3] will write, or has written, to the P. M. at Washington to know if Sufficient Security can be had, Still reserving to himself to Say whether the proposals Shall even then be agreed to, So that you may have Sufficient

time on hand to deliberate & determine whether you will Send on proposals, and as you will know as well as the P. M. Whether M^c. can get Security you have every advantage you could wish—as [the] time is so far elaps'd that you [would n]ot commence with the first of [your term as i]t will not be insisted on for y[ou to] name any particular day but [that] you shall commence as so[on] =after as possible deduction to [be] made from the year for the [time] which shall have elapsed, pray write me whether)
 you propose or not,)

I am D^r Sir

Y^r very hum Ser^t

A C. THOMAS

Finals 6/4 Int pd to 1 Jan. 88

Invents 3/4

Naval Stores I have not enquired since my last, but I believe none have arrived since

Addressed: John Gray Blount

Fayetteville

Hon'd by M^r McCabe

*William Blount to William White*¹³⁶

FAYETTEVILLE Sunday Nov. 22^d 1789

Dear Sirs,

After keeping Jack till this morning to get the amounts against our deceased Friend I have not been able to obtain them all. De Keyer has handed me his the amount £17.11 and this I shall endeavour to have paid before I leave this place—Arants charges £3—for shaving, washing and laying out the Corps¹³⁷—Mrs. Boyakin £3. for making the Shroud and dressing—Mr M^cAustin's Bill for Linen for scarfs and Bands, for Ribband to tie the scarfs & Bands and for Cambrick for the Cap of the Shroud and other little Articles must be between £36 and £40.—The Price of the Coffin will be from £6 to £8 and the Doctors Bill can't be over £10 that is Cutler's, Ingram and Maclaine attended him as Friends—I have paid to the Persons who bore the Corps to the Church 40/ and for several other

¹³⁶Miscellaneous Papers, Series One (North Carolina Department of Archives and History), II (1789-1830), 8.

¹³⁷Richard Caswell died while the assembly was in session. William Blount was on the senate committee of arrangement and John Gray was on that of the house.

trifling things making in all about five pounds.—This I believe makes up the List of Expenses here but in a few days I hope to be able to ascertain them with Exactness and will then inform you.—When Mr. McAustin supplied the articles on which his Charges will be founded I assured him that they would be shortly paid for and all Persons who have small sums due to them expect also to be shortly paid more particularly as the deceased was a man of high Character and good Fortune. Jack will deliver the Paper of this place published last week in which you will see what honors were here paid our old Friend and the Procession was really the most regular I ever saw and I assure you that his death was lamented by all Ranks of People very sincerely even by those who heretofore had not appeared unfriendly. It seemed as if such had not known the Value of the Man untill he was dead—I am sorry to here of the Indisposition of Winston¹³⁸ be pleased to present my Compliments to him and tell him I wish him better Health and to believe me with much esteem

Your obedient Servant

W^m BLOUNT

William White esquire

Jack

John Harvey¹³⁹ to [John Gray]Blount

HARVEY'S NECK 2nd. Dec^r. 1789

Dr Sir,

Your fav^r of the 23rd. of Oct^r I Rec^d in Nov^r but am Sorry it was not in my power to forward you any Money, I expected you In some time ago at our Court & then had Nearly or Quite one hundred pounds for you but your not coming nor Sending Sooner I paid it away—I expect I shall be able to Collect about £75 for you by Jan^y. Court

I can Collect (I imagine) Near or Quite Three hundred Barrells of Corn for you at 16/8 or perhaps 15/. P Barrell, which If you Conclude to take I shall be glad to hear from you by the Return of M^{rs}. Jos^o. Skinner Jun^r. who forwards this—If you Should want a Quantity of Bread or flour I shall be Glad to furnish you—I have Exceeding Good of Both—I should be

¹³⁸Caswell's son.

¹³⁹Probably a cousin of John Gray Blount's wife.

glad if you could Send Round for the Corn As Soon as Possible—I expect there will be a Quantity of New England men in the River & Perhaps the[y] May Raise the Price of Corn—we are all tolerably well in the Neck I hope this may find you well—My Mother Sisters & Brothers Join in Complements to yourself & all our Good friends in your part of the Country & should be very happy to See Some of you in this Part of the Country again—Interim Believe me

to be Dr Sir with much Esteem
yours till Death—
JO HARVEY

Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount

Dear Sir

NEW YORK 9th Decem^r 1789

The Brig Polly of Montego Bay is now in this port, She arriv'd the 7th inst. considerably injured in her rigging &c., old Durham is Still on board her, I met him yesterday looking out for some person to Write to you, he says She cannot sail under three or four Weeks, She continues Duncan's property, If you can forward your accounts or Such documents as may be necessary to institute a Suit or get her libelled I will have it done for you, I think 'tis probable this may be the Shortest way to bring Mr. D to Settlement, if you think So too, pray lose no time in forwarding me powers, my fingers itch to be at the [2] the business, and nothing could give me greater pleasure than to See the lad brought to account.

The Sloop Sally arriv'd on Sunday the 6th inst, & the Schooner on Monday we are making Sales of your adventures, Tar has fallen, had those vessels arriv'd within eight or ten Days of their Sailing we Should have commanded 20/, 'tis now down to 14/. I have not at this moment time to get the prices current, my good friend Mr. Ramsey finding me much engaged offerd to take the business of Selling & executing your orders off my hands for half the commissions, which I thankfully accepted, and flatter myself the business will be executed [3] to your Satisfaction, in much haste I am Dr. Sir

Yr. very obt Sert
A C. THOMAS

Addressed: John Gray Blount esquire
 Merchant
 Washington
 Hon'd by Cap^t Pribble

John Smith¹⁴⁰ to John Gray Blount

ST. EUSTATIUS.¹⁴¹ Dec^r. 15th. 1789

Sir

Agreeable to your Instruction I Arrived at this port After a Passage of 13 Days, but find I Cannot obtain the Limited Prices for the Cargo nor any Thing near it—I therefore Shall proceed Down for Jamica after Clearing out this Eveing—And you may Rist [rest] assur'd that after My arrival at Jamaica Shall Endeavour to manage for the best—The most I was Offered for The Jack was 350 Dollars; She Is the best Sea boat I Ever had my foot In—I anchor'd In water million Quay St Johns The tenth Day after I Sail^d. from the bar

Sir

I Remain

Yours

JOHN SMITH

Addressed: John G. Blount Esqr.
 Washington
 Schooner Dick Cap^t Standly

Abishai C. Thomas to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK 19 Decem^r. 1789

Dear Sir

By the Sally I Send you Sundries as P Invoice & a/c. inclos'd, and hope the quality and prices will please.

The sales of your adventure are not yet closed so that I cannot inform you of the nett proceeds, as Soon as compleated I Shall lodge the money in the Bank from whence we can draw it at any time without any commission or deduction, but as I

¹⁴⁰John Smith seems to have been one of the most intelligent of the supercargoes employed by the Blounts. It was not unusual for the vessels to move tramp-like from island to island.

¹⁴¹The Dutch islands were open to American shippers.

cannot now Send you the receipt for the deposit, your draft must be on me and I must draw the check which you could not do not knowing the amount, I Shall take the receipt for the deposit for account of J.G.Blount, so that you may be enabled to draw the money in case any accident Should happen to me, or I should remove and the money Shall remain inviolate to your use—Your Rice is Said to be of bad-quality, and all that has been Sold is return'd, Mr. Ramsay informs me the grain is red, the flaxseed something damaged The Tar loses about three barrels of Water, the Tob°. is also a little damaged & unsold, the Wheat lost 8 bush^l. in measurement & 7 in weight, so that you may count on Sales of 171½ bush^l. @ 8/6, Tar 14/. Say 66 blls Hides 8^d Turpentine 16/. Shingles 10/. Beeswax 2/3 Snake root 2/. Flaxseed 6/., Some loss, Rice Suppose 20/. Tob°. 3^d. from all which you may form a tolerable accurate calculation of what money you may draw for.

Mess^{rs}. Stuart & Barr inclos'd to me a Continental Certificate to pay for the nail rod, but it was of a [2] Species which would not Sell until cancell'd at the Treasury Office of the U. S. and a register's Certificate issued in lieu, I applied to have this done but without Success, the Officer who issued the Certificate having made no returns there was no check whereby to discover whether it was genuine—The Secretary of the Treasury directed a Letter to be written immediately to the signer of the certificate, urging him to make immediate return, and I have written to Stuart & Barr urging them to press the business, in the mean time I flatter myself the concerned will not Suffer by the delay Continental Securities are rising in value, within the course of this week they have been at 8/1, 8/3, 8/6, 8/9 & and even 9/1 but the Fever has Somewhat abated and they are now at about 8/ to 8/3, this fall is occasion'd by the want of Money, but I take it to be momentary only, and fully believe that in a very short time they will be worth 10/. therefore *buy, buy, buy*, if you can't for me do for yourself 'tis speculating to a certainty, that is to Say in my humble opinion, all Interest prior to 1 Jan. 88 is exclusive & is worth 5/6, all Subsequent is thrown in, Congress having as yet made no provision to pay it,—I wrote you Some days Since by Capt. Pribble via Edenton informing you of the Brig Polly being here, I have nothing to add on this head but a renewal of my wishes that you will put it in my power to render you a Service in the premises if practicable—I wrote you by McCabe informing of a Spec to be made in the post

Office business, the vacancy continues open & the P. M. G. has written the P. M. at Wilmington to employ by the trip until he [3] hears from you or M^cCabe.

Your Dutch Fan¹⁴² is metamorphos'd into a Basket, this happen'd by mistake of the purchaser, & considering it might be of use to you for winding Corn Peas &c. I agreed to take it, & directed a Fan to be procur'd forthwith, Mr. Ramsay call'd on me & told me it would Cost £18. This alarm'd me, I went with him to the maker & behold he had bespoke a rolling screen, I countermanded the order and at last made them understand what I wanted, but there was not one to be had in the City nor could one be compleated in less than 10 days, the Price £8. as I have been inform'd they may be had at £4:10 to £5. in Philadelphia & could not Send one by this opp^y. I Suspended the order for having one made until I can hear from you, I can at any time have one compleated during the time a vessel will lie here, or you may write by Post & I will have it ready for the first [opportunity]—In my Letter by Pribble I inform'd you that my friend Mr. Ramsey had politely undertaken the Sales of your venture for half the commissⁿ but if that Letter should miscarry this will account [for his] Agency in the business—Here has been the [Devil] to pay among the No. Carolinians, of which you will get the particulars by Capt. Eastwood, among the rest I put in for a Small share, & 'tis well its no worse, I did not mean to urge immediate repayment, but as Mr. R. has behaved in Such an infamous manner I beg that you may Shew him no quarter & remit me the nett proceeds as early as convenient—Hemp seed cannot now be had unless we take of the old,, which is not good, Mr. Ramsay is promised some good which hope we shall be able to forward in time, I Send a cheese which is not included in the Invoice please [4] please do me the favor to present my compliment to M^{rs}. Blount & request her acceptance of it.

I enclose you the price current of the day Send you a few news papers & beg leave to conclude this prolix epistle with thanks for the favors of your business.—*I shall take care to*

¹⁴²This was a fan for cleaning peas and grain.

enquire the price of commissions as well as other things indeed I did it before & only charged you the highest,—I am with real regard

Dr. Sir

Your mo. Ob^t Ser^t

A. C. THOMAS

There is a small bundle for Mr. Witherspoon which Mr. Ramsay requests Mr. Blount be so good as to forward, & a bell for Mrs. Tom Blackledge.

Addressed: John Gray Blount esq.

Merchant

Washington

Sloop Sally Capt Beak

Prices Current New York 18 Dec. 1789

Tar 12/

Pitch 18. None now at Market

Turpentine 16/

Rosin 16/

Spts. Turpentine 2/

Pitch Pine plank do

Scantling

22 Inch shingles 24/

18 Inch do 12/

Wheat 8/6 to 9/

Flaxseed 6/

Rice 22/

W.O.H. staves & head.g £7-10/

R.O. do £5

Tobo 3^d to 3½

Beeswax 2/1

Hides 8^d-9^d.

Abishai Thomas to John Gray Blount

NEW YORK 23rd Decem^r. 1789

Dr Sir

I have not much to give you in addition to my communications of the 19th by the Sally Capt Beck which I hope will be Safe arriv'd before this reaches you, Miner carries the papers up to

this date, prices current continue much the Same as those sent by Beck Your Sales are not yet compleated So that I cannot forward you a/c.—

There has no official accounts come to hand of the ratification of the new Constitution by North Carolina, but you may See by the papers We have had the news, even round by way of Boston, So that it is generally believed¹⁴³,—I am not much obliged to my friends in N^o. Carolina for their inattention to me on this Subject, & I cannot but Say I am considerably disappointed and chagrin'd to think that among so [2] So many whom I have counted on as Such not one has thought it worth while to Sit down and write me five words which would have been Sufficient, as thus, "Thomas the Constitution is adopted 193/75" However I Shall get over it, and it Shall go hard with me but I will punish Some of you in return

Please offer my respects to M^{rs}. Blount & believe me to remain with esteem & respect

Dr. Sir

Your very hum^l Ser^t.

A. C. THOMAS

Finals—8/

Addressed: M^r John Gray Blount
Merchant
Washington

Cap^t Miner

John Scott to John Gray Blount

[BASSE-TERRE, Gaudeloupe, December 29, 1789]

Mr. Blount

Sir/

By this you will be informed that there is a Cap^t. Webb hear that intends to go to North Carolina and I have Recommended Washington to him and to Call on you and to give you the prefrence of his Cargo which will be Rum Sugar Coffee brandy & Salt and sum money his Vessel is about 80 tuns and he wants in Return white oak Hhd. Staves Scantline Shingles boards Corn peas & tobacco—I have told him that he may Relie on

¹⁴³North Carolina voted favorably on the Constitution at the Fayetteville Convention in November, 1789.

your giveing him Dispatch and Inform^d him of your Castle¹⁴⁴ and the Intencion of it, I donot think that Mr Leroy will be able to Sell the Vessel hear and in that Case we must Run down to Cape france war [François] please to inform Mr. Prescott that Cap^t Neal has not arrived hear yet, Pleas to forward the inclosed Letter to Mr bell by the first oppertunity and you will much Oblige your Very humble

Servent

JN^o. SCOTT

Guandeloupe

Basseterr 29 December 1789

Addressed: Mr. John G Blount

Merch^t

Washington

OTHER PAPERS FOR 1764-1789

Petition of Jacob Blount for Annulment of Election¹

WILMINGTON February 8th, 1764

To the Worshipfull Mr Speaker and Getlemen of the Assembly of the Province of North Carolina

The humble Petition of Jacob Blount of Craven County Sheweth That at the late Election of Representatives for Craven County, Joseph Leech and Thomas Howe Esq^{rs}. together with your Petitioner were Candidates. That Divers Persons not being Lawful Freeholders in the said County Voted for the said Thomas Howe, By means of which the said Thomas Howe had a majority of Votes in his Favour and was accordingly returned by the Sheriff for one of the Representatives for the said County, when in truth your petitioner (as he Conceives) had a majority of Votes of the Legal Freeholders at the said Election

Your Petitioner further Sheweth That the said Thomas Howe at the Time of such Election (as your petitioner humbly Apprehends) was not a Freeholder within the Meaning of the Act of Assembly in such Case made and Provided to entitle him to sit and Vote in the General Assembly of this Province

¹⁴⁴The Shell Island tavern and supply store was known as the Castle.

¹From Legislative Papers, February, 1764.

Wherefore your petitioner humbly prays that the premises may be Inquired into; And that your Worshiprs will do what to you, in your great Wisdoms shall seem meet therein.²

And as in duty Bound your pet.^r

Shall ever pray & C

JACOB BLOUNT

Wilmington February)

8th 1764 - - -)

Bill of Exchange for Jacob Blount, Deputy Paymaster General of the Continental Troups in North Carolina February 12, 1777

Exch^a. for 250,000 Dollars

North Carolina 12th February 1777

At sight of this my first of Exchange (second & third of the same tenor & Date unpaid) Pay to Jacob Blount Esquire, Deputy Paymaster General of the Continental Troops in this State or his order two hundred and fifty thousand Dollars and place the same to the Account of this State as P advice from

Your Obedient Servant

SAM JOHNSTON Treas^r. of
the Northern District

Addressed: Michael Hillegar Esq^r

Treasurer of the United States

Baltimore

Resolution of House of Commons³

State of North Carolina

In the House of Commons 23rd April 1778

It appearing to this House that Mr William Blount advanced to the Continental Soldiers belonging to this State at Philadelphia two thousand four Hundred Eight five & a half Dollars Continental Money in Exchange for the same sum in Carolina Dollars, and that the said Carolina Dollars have been transmitted to Mr John Ashe Treasurer of this State and duly Accounted for; and further that Mr. Blount's charge on this account was Disallowed at the last Session of Assembly for want of Sufficient proof.

²Blount was unable to oust Howe, who served for the years 1764-1769. He did, however, win in the next election and, along with Howe, served through 1777. Connor, *Manual*, 358; *Colonial Records of North Carolina*, VI, 1183.

³Legislative Papers, April, 1778.

Resolved therefore, that the said William Blount be allowed the aforesaid sum of two Thousand four [2] four hundred Eighty five & a half Dollars, that the Treasurers or either of them⁴ pay him the same and be allowed in their accouts with the Public.

By order John Hunt C[lerk] H[ouse] C[ommons]

Jno. Williams S[peaker] C[ommons]

In the Senate 23^d April 1778

J. Sitgraves C. S.

Whit.¹¹ Hill S. S.

Read & concurred with

By order

[John Sitgreeaves Clerk of Senate]

*Deed From Jacob Blount, Sr., to William Blount*⁵

June 27th 1778

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS that I Jacob Blount of the County of Craven and Province of North Carolina for and in Consideration of the Love Good will and affection which I have and do bear to my Son William Blount of the County and Province aforesaid have Given and Granted and by these presents do free Give and Grant unto my said Son William Blount his Heirs and Assigns a certain piece or parcel of Land situate lying and being in the Town of New Bern being part of the Front of Lot number Eighteen and middle and Front Street Beginning at the dividing Line of John Gray Blount and runs Westerly with Front Street to middle Street then with said street to the Channel of Trent River then parrarel to Front Street to John Gray Blounts Line then to the Beginning which Front was granted by the Commissioners of New Bern to John Bryan by Deed dated the 6th day of March 1746 and by several Conveyances sold and conveyed to the said Jacob Blount Reference being thereunto had may more fully appear to have and to hold the aforesaid part of Lot No. (18) eighteen, with the Appurtenances and all Rights Privileges and Improvements to the same in any wise belonging to him the said William Blount his Heirs and Assignes forever And I the said Jacob Blount do hereby covenant and agree to and with the said William Blount

⁴North Carolina had two treasurers until 1784, when the offices were combined. *State Records of North Carolina*, XVII, v.

⁵Mrs. L. O'B. Branch Papers (North Carolina Department of Archives and History) I.

that he the said William Blount his Heirs and Assigns shall and may forever hereafter peaceably and quietly Have, Hold, Occupy, Possess and Enjoy the aforegranted Lands and Premisses without the let or molestation of any Person whatsoever and free and clear from all and all manner of [2] incumbrances whatsoever IN WITNESS whereof I have hereunto set my Hand and affixed my Seal this Twenty Seventh day of June
Anno. Dom. 1778

JACOB BLOUNT (Seal)

SEALED AND DELIVERED

in the Presence of
Thomas Ogden
Tho. Blount
North Carolina

Craven County Court December term 1791

Then was the written deed proved in open court by the oath of Thomas Blount one of the subscribing witnesses thereto and ordered to be regestered.

test

SAM¹ CHAPMAN C C

Recorded in the Registers Office of Craven County in
Book Letter (S) page two hundred & Eighty two (282)

By Order

JAMES BRYAN Reg^r

*Report of the Committee of the House of Commons
on the New Bern Election⁶*

October 1779

Your Committee to whom was referred the Petition of Mr. William Blount beg leave to report That upon the Examination of Depositions produced by Said Blount & Mr. Richard Spaight⁷ they

⁶Legislative Papers, October, 1779.

⁷Richard Dobbs Spaight was the first native-born governor of North Carolina. He was born at New Bern (North Carolina), March 25, 1758, and was educated at the University of Glasgow. He held numerous public offices, including that of representative of New Bern in the state House of Commons for five years; speaker of the house in 1785; delegate to the Congress of the Confederation; delegate to the Constitutional convention of 1787; member of the Hillsboro convention of 1788; and was chosen governor of North Carolina by the legislature in 1792, 1793, 1794, and 1795. He married Mary Leech in 1788 [*State Gazette of North Carolina* (New Bern), October 20, 1788]. He continuously complained of ill health and wanted to travel to many places in search of improvement. He was greatly interested in experimental agriculture and seems to have been fairly successful in his methods (see his letter to John Gray Blount, December 13, 1788, above, p. 446). Spaight and the Blounts were very close friends so long as Spaight lived. He was killed in a duel growing out of a political dispute in 1802. John Gray Blount was made an executor of Mary Spaight's will in 1810 (Charles Biddle to John Gray Blount, May 9, 1810, John Gray Blount Papers). Ashe, *Biographical History*, IV, 397-402.

find that an Election was held at New Bern on the 25 & 26 days of June last for electing a member to represent the Said Town of New Bern in General Assembly that the Poll was opened about 10' of the Clock in the forenoon, that the Tickets were received & put into a Tin Cannister without a Top & that the said Cannister at neither of the Adjournments was Sealed - That a certain David Thompson a Soldier in the State Regiment and a certain Richard A Dowdy offered their Tickets which were refused by the Sheriff the Ticket of former because he was a Soldier & that of the latter because he had removed from New Bern to avoid the Smallpox. Your Committee further beg leave to report that it appears by the Confession of the Said Blount & Spaight that many persons voted who had no right so to do upon the whole your Committee are of Opinion that the Election was illegal & ought to be set aside all which is Humbly Sumbitted

W HAYWOOD C. MAN

Report of the Comm: on the New Bern Election
October 1779.

*William Blount Named Paymaster for Militia**

[May 10, 1780]

Nº. Carolina

In the House of Commons 10 May 1780

Mr. Speaker & Gentlemen of the Senate

We herewith return the Resolve of your
House appointing William Blount Esquire to pay off the
Militia heretofore in Service

THOS. BENBURY S C

Concurred with.

By Order

J Hunt C H C

*Legislative Papers, May 1-10, 1780 (Senate).

*Commission to John Gray Blount from Governor Abner Nash**

May 20, 1780

Mr. John Gray Blount you are hereby appointed to purchase if to be had, & if not to be had on purchase, you are then to impress such articles as may be absolutely necessary for the Troops to be raised in the County Beaufort, agreeable to an act of the last General Assembly for granting an Aid of 4000 men to march to the State of South Carolina per all which this shall be your warrant given under my hand & seal this 20th day of May an. Dom 1780 —

A NASH

Commission to John Gray Blount from Joseph Green⁸

July 18, 1780

I do hereby appoint John Gray Blount Esqr. my Assistant Commissary of Purchases & Receiver of Stores at Washington with all the Powers incident to that office of Impressing Provisison, Salt, Rum, Waggon, Hor's &c &c When the exegencies of this Service Require it.

Given under my hand at New Bern 18th July 1780

JOSEPH GREEN

D. C. G. Purchas's

Accounts of Jacob Blount and William Blount, Paymasters⁹

Jacob Blount, Paymaster of the Continental Troops N°. Carolina., Settled an account with the State Congress November & December 1776, whereby it appears that he had received from the Treasury of the State at Sundry times from the 19th April to 14th December 1770 ----- £ 132,903.17.8

That he regularly paid & expended as P Vouchers produced & lodg'd with the Committee ----- 85,939. 8.8

Leaving a balance in hand of £ 46,964. .9.7

*Rodman Manuscripts (North Carolina Department of Archives and History).

⁸Legislative Papers.

⁹Legislative Papers.

W^m Blount Paymaster to the 3rd Reg.,t Light Horse, Artillery
& c. Settled an acct with the General Assembly, April & May
1777, whereby it appear'd that he had receiv'd from Jacob
Blount £ 11612
That he had paid 12868.14.8

Balance due him £ 1256.14.8

W^m. Blount for Jacob Blount D. P. M. G. Settled an acct. Novem^r
& Decembr^r 1777, whereby it appears that he had received etc.
The balance in hand P

Settlement of 76	£ 46,964.9.
Of Samu ^l Johnston, State Treasurer	23,740
Of John Ashe D ^o	15.048
Brought forward	£ 85,752.9 [2]
Rec ^d of Knox	114.12
Bills of Jno Ashe on Cont ^l . Treasury	3571
Of John Gibson—Cont ^l . Treasury	16,400
of W ^m . Skinner—State Treasury	2,100
& Sundry dis allowances in his Acc ^t for)	
want of proper Vouchers .....	) 240.7.9
	£ 108,178.8.9

That he had paid including his own Salary from 15 April 1770
to 7th Decembr^r. 1777 £ 108 042.4.8

Balance due the State £ 136.4.1

Which he paid into the hands of the Chairman of the Committee
& balanced his account

##

W^m. Blount for Jacob Blount D P M G—May 1778

Exhibited an amount whereby he had rec ^d	£ 204
and paid	7 936.5.7

Due J. Blount £ 7 732.5.7

W^m. Blount P M. of the N. C. Reg^t Same Session

Received <i>balance due from him</i>)	£ 2 906.17.5
--	--------------

or settlement as P. M. 3rd Reg. Dec 77)

Paid	4 275.3.11
------------	------------

Due W Blount £ 1,368.6.6 [3]

W^m. Blount P. M.—3rd N. C. Reg^t Novem & Dec^r. 1777

Received from Sundry persons £ 23,451.19

Paid 20,545. 1.7

2,906.17.5

W^m Blount for Jacob Blount D. P. M. G. & himself as P. M. to Militia &c.—Apl & May 1780

Received £ 480,046

Paid, The Continental Troops £ 78,559.18.6

Volunteers & Ballots—9 mo..... 46,469.15.2

Militia Aid to S^o Carolina)..... 228,188.10.8

Under Command Gen^l. W.)

Ashe)

D^o. D^o. under Gen^l. W Butler 95,412.18

Whitaker's Horse, Halifax

Guard & Guard over prise^s [prisoners]

from S^o. Carolina 10,847.1.4 465,478. 3.8

Due the State £ 14,567.16.4

JAMES PORTERFIELD esquire

Fayetteville

N. Carolina

Addressed: W^m John Gray & Thomas Blount

Merchants

Washington

N. Carolina

*John Bryan's Testimony on Election*¹⁰

[May 6, 1783]

N. Carolina

Craven County

This May Certify that at the Ellection of Members to Represent the County of Craven I acted as Sheriff of Said County and Recie^d the Tickets from the Voters, and the Election was Car-ryed on Very peacibly untill the evening of the Second Day, when it was agreed to Count out the Tickets as it Should be finish^d before Dark and to keep the pole open until Sunset[.] after Counting the tickets it apeard that Mr. W^m. Blount was five Voats before John Tillman after that W^m M. Heritage

¹⁰Legislative Papers.

offered to give in his Tickets which was prevented by M. John Setgreaves [Sitgreaves] one of the Commisser who would not suffer it to be put into the cannoster which Caused a Very warm Dispute between myself and Mr. Setgreaves and Several of Mr. Blounts friends, which Dispute Continued untill after Sunset which prevented Several Voters from giving in their Tickets which was Supposed would be given in favour of Tillman as many as Seven or Eight and at the Time the Dispute [a] fight arose a bout Hermitages voting I believe and am Satisfyed the sun was three quarters of an hour High—Given under my hand this—6th May 1783

JNO. C. BRYAN. Sher

*Indenture between Burwell Pope, Thomas Tulloch,
and Harvey Macon¹¹*

MAY 18, 1783

THIS INDENTURE made this nineteenth day of may in the year of our Lord one thousand seven Hundred and Eighty three Between Burwell Pope of the County of Wake and State of North Carolina of the one part and Thomas Tulloch & Harvey Macon of the other part.

Witnesseth that the said Burwell Pope for & in consideration of the sum of Six hundred and Forty pounds to him in hand paid the receipt whereof he doth acknowledge, Hath Bargained Granted and sold Allian'd and confirmd and by these Presence doth Bargain, sell Allien'd and Confirm unto them the said Thomas Tulloch & Harrison Macon their heirs and Assigns for Ever, one Certain Tract or parcel of Land Situate Lying and being in the County of Wake and state of North Carolina on Both sides of Phillipo'o Branch Beginning at a white oak in his Own line at Joseph Lanes Corner on the East side of said Branch thence South two hundred and forty Poles to a pine thence West three hundred and Eighty Eight poles to a pine in Benjamin Blakes line thence north ninety Eight Poles to to said Blakes Corner in the Center of three black Jacks thence West Sixty five poles to a black Jack thence North one hundred &

¹¹This indenture is included because the land grant seems to be the same as that which the Ogdens made over to the Blounts in May, 1787 (see Indenture between Thomas and Titus Ogden . . . May 25, 1787, below, p. 552), and it lies in the vicinity of the land purchased later for the capital of the state. Thomas Blount was one of the commissioners for the location of the capital (Legislative Papers, House of Commons, 1792).

forty two poles to a White Oak to the first Station containing by Estimation six Hundred and forty Acres more or less Granted by his Excellency Governor Caswell to the said Burwell Pope by Deed Bearing date the first day of April in the fourth year of our Independance one thousand seven hundred and Eighty. Together with the revision prophets and remainders. To have and to hold the said Bargain'd premises [2] Premises to them the said Thomas Tulloch and Harrison Macon, that is to say two thirds of the same to Thomas Tulloch and one third to Harrison Macon their heirs and assigns for Ever and the said Burwell Pope for himself his heirs Executors & administrators doth Covenant and agree to and with them the said Thomas Tulloch and Harrison Macon their heirs and Assigns for Ever (2) WARRENT and defend unto them all the afore-said Bargained premisses from the Claim of all persons Whatever claiming under the said Burwell Pope his heirs Executors or administrs in Witness whereof I have herewith set my hand and affixd my Seal the day and date above written

Signd Seald & Deliverd)

in the presence of J P)

Thomas Wooten

BURL POPE (SEAL)

W^m Wooten

Wake County

March Term 1795

The within Deed was proved by the Oaths of John Humphries Esq and John Reid, by their proving the hand writing of Thomas Wooten one of the Subscribing Witnesses and ordered to be Registered

H. LANE C. C.

Shipping Cargo Receipt by Joseph Putnam¹²

WILMINGTON 3^d. Oct 1783

Received of Henry Toomer on board the Sloop Active on Account and Risque of John Grey & Thomas Blount Merchants of Washington Nine hundred & Eighty eight & a half Bushels Sweet Potatoes with which I promise to proceed to New York the Danger of the Seas only excepted & there dispose of them for the Most obtainable & the Cash arising from such sale (after deducting five Pr Cent Commissions on Sales and a freight of

¹²See the correspondence between Putnam and the Blounts on this subject in Letters for 1783, above.

two shillings and four pence Per bushel New York Currency) I promise to pay into the hands of Taylor & Rogers Merchants of New York on Account of the said John Grey & Thomas Blount.

JOS PUTNAM

*Extract of Minutes—House of Assembly of Georgia*¹³

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY February 20th 1784

The House proceeded to take up the Report of the Committee, to whom was refered the Petition of Mr. Blount and other Citizens of North Carolina, which, after some amendments was.—agreed to and is as Follows.—

The Committee to whom was refered the Petition of Mr. Blount in behalf of himself and other Citizens of North Carolina

Respecting the expediency of laying out a new County to Include all that Tract of Land Lying &c. after having received all information they could obtain on that—Subject are of Opinion it will be necessary in order to Prevent future Contests, to take measures as soon as it may be done with Propriety; to Settle the Said Tract of Country, and do Recommend for that Purpose, that Seven Commissioners be appointed and Vested with the powers necessary to ascertain the quantity, Quality, and Circumstances of the aforesaid Lands and report the same with their Proceedings to the Legislature for their Consideration, and to make them such Compensation as may be Deemed adequate and Satisfactory Provided Notwithstanding that the said Board shall have power, and they are hereby Authorized if they or a Majority of them may think it Necessary in Such manner as to them seems most expedient, to Proceed to grant Warrants of Survey, which shall when executed be Transmitted with the platts to the Surveyor General's Office, in order that the Same may pass to a Grant as the law Directs providing that no one Person shall be eligible to hold or obtain a Grant for more than one thousand Acres, and that he or they so obtaining a Warrant, Shall at the Same time give Bond and Security to pay into the Treasury of this State, at and after the rate of any Eighth

¹³See William Blount to [Joseph Martin], pp. 156-157, above.

of a Dollar Per Acre which sum shall be paid before he She or they Shall obtain a Grant That—[2] be and they are hereby appointed Justices for said District, that the said Board shall be Authorized to Nominate Melitia Officers, who shall be Commissioned by his Honor the Governor—

Extract from the Minutes

JOHN WILKINSON C. G. A

House of Assembly February 21st. 1784

The House proceeded to the appointment of Commissioners for—Examining the Quailty & Quantity of the Lands on the Tennessee River agreeable to the Resolve of the twentyeth Instant when the following Persons were appointed Vz. Lachlin—M^c. Intosh Jun^r. William Downes, Stephen Heard, John Morrell John Donelson, Joseph Martin & John Severe [Sevier] Esquires were Appointed.

Extract from the Minutes

JOHN WILKINSON C. G. A.

*Petition of William Blount and Associates to the Assembly
of Georgia for Grant of Land¹⁴*

[SAVANNAH, February 7th 1784]

To the Honorable the General Assembly of the State of Georgia

The Petition of William Blount in behalf of Richard Caswell, Griffith Rutherford, Joseph Martin, John Donelson, Anthony Bledso, Martin Armstrong, John Severe, James Glasgow, John Gray Blount, Reading Blount and himself, humbly Showeth

That your Petitioners are about to settle the Tract of Country included within the following description namely beginning at the South Bank of the River Tennessee where the West Line of the South Boundary of the State of North Carolina Strikes the said River and running with the said Line west crossing the said River Tennessee immediately and proceeding in the said West line until again it crosses the said River Tennessee to the South bank thereof—then up the said South Bank of the River Tennessee its various windings and Turnings to the beginning Supposed to contain three hundred thousand acres more or less upon the aforesaid Tract of Country your Petitioner can with ease

¹⁴See above, pp. 156-157.

in the Course of three years Settle three hundred Families which they are willing to oblige themselves to do and perform. Your Petitioners humbly conceive that the settling the afore-said Tract of Country under the Sanction and protection of the State of Georgia will be attended with Manifest Advantages to the State as well as to themselves therefore they pray that your Honorable Body will be pleased to grant the Right and Title of the before mentioned Tract of Country to your petitioners their Heirs and assigns forever—or if the before described Tract of Country should be found to contain a greater number of Acres than your Honorable body should think expedient to Grant to your Petitioners (2) that you will be pleased to grant to them such part of the asses^d. Tract of Country as you shall think consistent with their Services & your own good Policy, and your Petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray
 Febr. 7th 1784

Wm Blount in behalf of—
 Richard Caswell
 Griffith Rutherford
 Joseph Martin
 John Donelson
 Anthony Bledsoe
 Martin Armstrong
 John Severe
 James Glasgow
 John Gray Blount
 Reading Blount &
 Himself

State of Georgia)
 Savannah 28th)
 February 1784)

This is to certify the above is a True
 Copy of the Original Petition de-
 livered in by Col. Blount & which is
 lodged in my office—

JOHN WILKERSON C.G.A.

A True Copy

Copy of a Petition presented to the House of Assembly
 of the State of Georgia Blount in behalf of
 himself & other Citizens of North Carolina

Copy

List of Goods Requested from Bremen by William Blount

April 10, 1784

A List of Goods which Mr. Arnold Delius¹⁵ is requested to ship from Bremen on Account and Risque of William Blount agreeable to the Tenor of his Letter of this Day April 10th 1784

- 48 Pieces of Tukenbury
- 96 Do Oznabrugs
- 50 Do Hempen Linnen
- 50 Do flaxen Do
- 50 DO Hessian Do
- 40 Do Warrendorf Do
- 40 Do Holland Do
- 200 Do Silesia Do
- 200 Do Westphalia Checks
- 200 Do Do Stripes
- 20 Do 4-4 Padderborn Linnen
- 20 Do 5-4 Do Do
- 5 Do Flowered Surmoiese
- 5 Do striped Do
- 40 Do Cambrick different qualities
- 40 Do Lawn, plain, striped, spriged
and flowered—
- 10 lb sewing Thread
- 10 lb packing Do
- 24 Dozen Silk Handkerchiefs
mostly low priced
- 24 Do Linnen Do fancy
- 6 Do Barcelona Do
- 12 Dozen Pair Silk Stockings
- 12 Do Do worsted
- 2 lb twisted Mohair)
) Different
) Colours
- 2 lb untwisted Do)
- 20 Pieces India Chintz [2]
- 50 Pieces Callicoes
- 50 Pair mens yellow or red Slippers
- 5 Pieces white Lace
- 5 Do Black Do
- 60 Rheme writing Paper different qualities

¹⁵See above, p. 162, n. 12 (1784-1786).

Blanketts to the amount of one hundred Guineas of different qualities—

Common woolen Cloths to the amount of one hundred Guineas different colours & qualities

Hatts mostly coarse to the Amount of fifty Guineas

German China to the amt. of twenty five Guineas

1000 lb. weight Steel

2000 lb weight lead & Shot

400 lb weight Green or Hyson Tea

200 Do Bohea Do

2 Tons Cordage mostly small

30 Cases of Gin or Ginneva 12 Bottles in a Case

Do fifty Gunneas Worth in Jugs in Hampers—signed—

WILLIAM BLOUNT

April 10th 1784

Unsigned Declaration of the Jurors in Orange County on Land Claims Case

April 16, 1784

The Jurors for the State upon their Oath present that at the Sixteenth day of April in the year of our Lord One Thousand Seven hundred and eighty-four, and in the eighth year of the Independence of the State a Brittain Saunders made an Entry in the office of John Armstrong then being Entry officer of claims for Western lands in the said State for a claim of a certain tract or parsel of land as aforesaid, containing five thousand Acres situated and bounded as follows joining the upper line for entry made by James Cronels, a Number Sixteen hundred & sixty eight on the middelle fo[r]k of Duck River, thence running up to include the Land on both sides for Compliment—The Jurors aforesaid upon their Oath aforesaid do further present that John Gray Blount, late of the County of Beaufort Merchant and Thomas Blount late of the County of Edgcomb also a Merchant compassing and devising how they might unlawfully and deceitfully acquire the publick property afterwards to wit on the twentieth day of December in the year of our Lord One Thousand, Seven hundred and eighty nine and in the fourteenth year of the Independence of the State, at the County of Orange within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court, falsely

fraudently and deceitfully did procure and cause to be issued upon the said entry out of the said office of John Armstrong, a certain fraudulent Warrant under the hand of the said John Armstrong an Entry officer aforesaid directed to William Polk region [2] Surveyor requiring him to lay off and survey for the said John Gray Blount and Thomas Blount the said tract of Land situated as aforesaid—And the Jurors aforesaid upon their Oath aforesaid do further present that the said John Gray Blount and Thomas Blount afterward to wit on the fourteenth day of February in the year of our Lord One Thousand Seven hundred and ninety three, and in the seventeenth year of the Independence of the said State, at the said County of Orange within the jurisdiction of thie Honorable Court in prosecution of their wicked and deceitful purposes aforesaid, falsely fraudulently and deceitfully did procure and cause to be issued from the said office of John Armstrong then being entry officer as aforesaid, a certain other false, and fraudulent Warrant upon the said Entry, made by the said Brittain Saunders as aforesaid purporting to be a said duplicate of the said Warrant first mentioned directed to the Surveyor of Western Lands requiring him to lay off and survey for the said John Gray Blount and Thomas Blount, the said tract a parcel of land first mentioned and afterwards to wit on the twenty-seventh day of June in the year last mentioned at the County of Greene within the jurisdiction of this Court in farther prosecution of this wicked and deceitful purposes aforesaid, falsely, fraudulently, and deceitfully and under colour of the said false and fraudulent Warrant last mentioned [3] and of a certain false and fraudulent Survey before that time pretended to have been made, did procure and cause to be made out and issued a certain fraudulent Grant from the State to them the said John Gray Blount and Thomas Blount for five thousand acres of the said Western lands, situated on both sides of the middle fork of Duck river. Beginning on the North bank of the said fork where the upper line of a Survey made by virtue of an Entry—number Sixteen hundred and sixty eight crosses the said fork, running thence North four hundred and eighty poles to a black Walnut and Ashe, thence East nine hundred and and eighty poles to a bush—thence South eight hundred and thirty three and a third poles crosing the said fork to a Stake, then West Nine hundred and sixty poles to a Stake, then North three hundred and fifty three and one third poles crosing the said fork to the Beginning—And the

Jurors aforesaid upon their Oath aforesaid do further Present that the said John Gray Blount and Thomas Blount afterwards to Wit on the twenty eighth day of April in the year of our Lord One Thousand Seven hundred and Ninety-four, and in the Nineteenth year of the Independence of the State at the said County of Greene within the Jurisdiction of this Court in further Prosecution of their wicked and deceitful Purposes, falsely, fraudently, and deceitfully, and under colour of the said fraudulent Warrant first mentioned, and of a certain false [4] and fraudulent Survey before that time pictuted to have been made, did procure and cause to be made out and issued to them the said John Gray Blount and Thomas Blount, a certain other false and fraudulent Grant from the State for another tract of five thousand acres of the said Western lands, which said last mentioned Grants beside the five thousand Acres of Land last mentioned contains ninety thousand Acres more of the said Western land, they the said John Gray Blount and Thomas Blount at the time they so obtained the said last mentioned Grant, well knowing that they had previously obtained a grant from the State for another and different tract of five thousand acres of the said Land aforesaid—and so the Jurors aforesaid to say & the common Conclusion——

Bill of Fees for Land Surveys and Locations due William Polk

John Gray Blount & Thomas Blount

To William Polk for the Fees due on the following Warrants in their Names. [n.d.] Viz

N ^o .			Half Fees.	
			£	
849	5000 Acres			5. 2.0
850	5000 do			5. 2.0
851	5000 do			5. 2.0
852	5000 do			5. 2.0
853	5000 do			5. 2.0
854	5000 do			5. 2.0
1656	5000 do			5. 2.0
1657	5000 do			5. 2.0
1658	5000 do			5. 2.0
1659	5000 do			5. 2.0
1660	5000 do			5. 2.0

1661	5000	do	5. 2.0
1662	5000	do	2. 2.0
1663	5000	do	5. 2.0
1664	5000	do	5. 2.0
1665	5000	do	5. 2.0
1667	5000	do	5. 2.0
1667	5000	do	5. 2.0
1668	5000	do	5. 2.0
1669	5000	do	5. 2.0
1670	5000	do	5. 2.0
1671	5000	do	5. 2.0
1672	5000	do	5. 2.0
1675	5000	do	5. 2.0
1676	5000	do	5. 2.0
1677	5000	do	5. 2.0
1678	5000	do	5. 2.0

£ 129.12.0

Also for the following.

1028	1000	do Jno. Grey Blount	1. 2.0
484	5000	do Reading Blount	5. 2.0

£ 135.16.0

Errors excepted
WILL: POLK

[Note on back]

Ms. Gray & Tho. Blount
in acct r^d.

WILL: POLK

£ 135.16.0

*List of Goods to be purchased for the Use
of the Cherokee Indians¹⁶*

[SEPT. 1785(?)]

Wanted Shrouds, blue

a large Quantity

Do Ditto a few red.)
Blue Broadcloths)
Red & blue plains)

for Match Coats.—
coarse wanted
Striped Linnens wanted

¹⁶See above, p. 148, n. 1 (1784-1786).

Chex . . . Coarse white Linnens—a large quantity.
wanted

White & Chex shirts—white ruffles short, wanted

Blankets—dutch—a large Quantity. wanted

Pretties.—Tapes.—wanted

Oriss.—for binding etc—wanted

Knives—Cutteaus wanted

Garters.— — — wanted

Sleeve-Buttons— — wanted

Handkerchiefs—Bilboa Handkerchiefs —wanted

a few Castor Hats

Gun-Flints wanted

Coarse Callicoes wanted

Ribbands. different colours—wanted

Combs—fine & Course wanted

under

10th of Vermilion—according to price—wanted

Bilboa Handkerchiefs

100,000

1,000

Wanted Pocket Looking Glasses

Wanted arm Plates wrist Plates ear rings & of
silver

Wanted coarse scarlet Bro Cloth

Wanted Strip^d & Liney woolen

Wanted Needles Sorted,

Wanted Thread Sortd,

Wanted Mens & Womens Sadles & Bridles

Gov. Martin

Mem^o. of Goods

Indenture and Marriage Settlement of Louisa Blount

OCTOBER 16, 1785

NORTH CAROLINA

THIS INDENTURE TRIPARTITE made the sixteenth day of October in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven Hundred and eighty six and in the Eleventh Year of our Independence between Richard Blackledge of the County of Beaufort in the State aforesaid Merchant of the first part, Louisa Blount

of the County of Craven and State aforesaid of the second part and William Blount of the County of Pitt—and State aforesaid of the third part Whereas a marriage is intended to be shortly had and solemnized by and between the said Richard Blackledge and the said Louisa Blount and whereas the said Louisa Blount is and stands possessed of considerable real and personal Estate consisting as follows to wit/Two Lots or pieces of Land in the town of Tarborough in the State aforesaid and County of Edgecombe situate lying and being in the said Town of Tarborough on Saint George Andrew and Granville Streets and known in the plan of the said Town by the numbers One hundred and four (Nº. 104) and One Hundred and five (Nº. 105) together with ale the Dwelling Houses Outhouses Kitchens Gardens Stables and Fences thereon also the following negro men and women Slaves to wit/Caesar, Rose, Lettice, Frank, Mary, Fanny, Ben, Valentine, Moses, Amia, Patience, Scipio, Hannah, Monday, Philop, Sam commonly called Sam Jenkins, Charles, Jack commonly called Jack Dennis, Pompey, Tom commonly called Tom Maxey, Sal and her four children namely Samuel Lydia Aaron and Peter and a Girl called Castle also one feather Bed and Furniture

And whereas it had been agreed that the Said Richard Blackledge after the said intendid marriage had should have receive and enjoy during the joint lives of them the said Richard Blackledge and Louisa Blount the Interest Proceed Occupation and possession of the said lands and Tenements Goods and Chattels and personal estate and also that the same and the Interest proceed and Benefit thereof from and after the Decease of such of them the Said Richard Blackledge Now This Indenture Witnesseth that pursuant to and in performance of the before recited Agreement and in Consideration of the Sum of ten shillings currant Money of the State aforesaid to the said Louisa Blount has been paid by the said William Blount at and before the en-sealing and delivery of these Presents the receipt whereof is hearby acknowledged she the said Louisa Blount by and with the Privy consent and Agreement of the said Richard Blackledge testified by his being made a party to and his Sealing and Delivery of these Presents hath Granted Bargained Sold assigned transferred and set over, and by these Presents doth grant Bargain sell assign transfer and set over unto the said William Blount his Executors Administrators and Assigns all and singular the Lands and and Tenements Goods and Chattels and personal Es-

tate whatsoever above recited together with all the property of what nature or kind soever which may thereafter descend or be given to her the the said Louisa Blount by Descent Legacy Donation or Deed of Gift from any person or persons whosoever, and all the Benefit thereof To Have Hold Receive take and enjoy the same and all the Benefit thereof unto the said William Blount his Executos Administratos and assigns upon such trusts nevertheless and to and for such Intents and purposes and under subject to such provisos Agreements as are herein after mentioned expressed and declared of and concerning the same, That is to say In trust for the said Louisa Blount and her assigns until the solemnization of the intended marriage, and from and after the solemnization of said intended marriage then upon Trust that he the said William Blount his Executors Administrators and Assigns shall and do permit and suffer the said Richard Blackledge during the joint lives of the said Richard Blackledge and Louisa Blount his intended wife to have receive take use occupy and enjoy all the Interest and Proceed use Occupation and possession of the above mentioned Lands and Tenements Goods and Chattels and personal Estate and other the[se] Presents mentioned to be hereby assigned, to and for his own use and Benefit and from and after the Decease of such of them the said Richard Blackledge and Louisa Blount as shall first happen to die then upon Trust that he the said William Blount his Executors administrators and Assigns shall and do assign grant pay and dispose of all and singular the Lands and Tenements Goods and Chattels and personal Estate whatsoever heretofore mentioned and described to the said Louisa Blount in case She survives the said Richard Blackledge but if she die before him then unto such Person and Persons and at the time and times and in such parts and proportions manner and form as she the said Louisa Blount shall from time to time notwithstanding her Coverture by any Writing or Writings under her Hand and Seal legally attested, or by her last will and Testament in Writing or any Writing purporting her last Will and Testament to be by her signed sealed published and declared in the Presence of three Creditable Witnesses direct limit or appoint, To the Intent that the same may not be at the Disposal of or subject or liable to controul of Judgments, Debts, Forfeitures of Engagements of the said Richard Blackledge her intended Husband; and the said Richard Blackledge doth hereby for himself his Heirs Executors

and Administrators covenant promise and grant to and with the said William Blount his Executors Administrators and Assigns by these Presents that he the said Richard Blackledge shall and will at any time or times hereafter upon request and at the Costs and Charges of the said William Blount his Executors Administrators and assigns make do and execute or cause to be made done and executed all and every lawful and reasonable Act subject to the provisos and Agreements herein before mentioned expressed and declared of and concerning the same, and whereby the better to enable the said Louisa Blount to appoint limit or dispose of the same according to the purport true Intent and Meaning of these Presents—And lastly it shall and may be lawful to and for the said William Blount his Executors Administrators and assigns and every by virtue of the trusts in him reposed or the management or Execution there of or in any thing, or in any wise relating thereto anything in these Presents contained to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding In Witness thereof the said Parties to these Presents have hereunto set their Hands and affixed their Seals the day and year above written

Signed Sealed and Dated

In the Presence of

J. Coart

Sarah Branler

William Spencer Murphy

R. Blackledge

Louisa Blount

Wm. Blount

Received

named William Blount the sum

the

above written of and from the above

money

being

money above mentioned

LOUISA BLOUNT

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

I do hereby certify that the within Indenture and Marriage Settlement was proved the Twenty Six day of November One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty Six by the Oath of William Spencer Murphy one of the Subscribing Witnesses thereto—before me the Subscriber in due form of Law—

Let the same Indenture and Marriage Settlement be Registered

SAM^l. SPENCER J. S. C. L. E. [Judge of
Superior Court of Law and Equity]

State of North Carolina)

Beaufort County

) Certified that this Instrument is

) received in this County

Book of the 152-163 & 164

*Bill of Sale of Negroes from Richard Blackledge to
Louisa Blount*

[October 4, 1786]

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

KNOW all Men by these Presents that I Richard Blackledge of the County of Beaufort & Town of Washington Merchant for and in consideration of the Sum of Two Thousand Two Hundred pounds Currency to me in hand paid by Louisa Blount of the State aforesaid at and before the Sealing & Delivery of these presents the Receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge Have Bargained and sold releas'd Granted & Confirmed and by these presents do Bargain Sell release, Grant & Confirm unto the said Louisa Blount Twenty Negroes Vir^t. Caesar, Rose, Lettice, Frank, Mary, Fanny, Ben, Vollentine Moses, Amia Patience Sippio, Hannah, Monday, Philip, *Sam Jenkins* Charles, *Jack Dennis*, Pompey, & *Tom Moxey*—To Have & to hold all & Singular the said Goods or Negroes and every of them by these presents bargained, Sold, Releas'd, Granted & Confirm'd unto the only proper use and behoof of the said Louisa Blount her Heirs Executors, Administrators and Assigns forever and I the said Richard Blackledge for myself my Heirs Executors administrators & Assigns all and Singular the said Negroes, Ceasar, Rose Lettice, Frank, Mary, Fanny, Ben Vollintine Moses, Amia, Patience Sippio, Hannah, Monday, Philip, *Sam Jenkins*, Charles, *Jacob Dennis* Pompey & *Tom Moxey* Unto the said Louiss Blount her Heirs, Executors, Administrators and assigns against me the said Richard Blackledge my Heirs, Executors Administrators or Assigns and against all and every other person or persons whatsoever, shall and will Warrant and forever defend by these Presents. In Witness whereof I have hereunto sett [2] sett my hand & Seale this Fourth day of October in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty Six

R^d. BLACKLEDGE

Signed Seald & Delivered)

)

In presents of J Moses)

)

herewith Delivered as delivery)

)

of the within Named Twenty)

)

Negroes

Sarah Branton

Caleb Hooten

J. G. S. Schenck

State of North Carolina

I do hereby certify that the within and above Bill of Sale was proved, the Twentieth day of November One Thousand Seven Hundred & Eighty Six, by the Oath of Caleb Hooten, one of the Subscribing Witnesses thereto before me the Subscriber in due Form of Law.

Let the Same Bill of Sale be Registered.

SAMⁱ. SPENCER J. S. C. L. E.

Ann Harvey's Gift to John Gray Blount, Jr.

[October 6, 1786]

Edgecomb County

Know all men by these presents that I Ann Harvey of the County aforesaid for and in consideration of the love good will and affection which I have and do bear to my nephew John Gray Blount son of John Gray Blount I have given unto my said nephew and by these presents do give unto him the said John Gray Blount a certain negro Girl named Fanny which said negro Fanny I hereby warrant and defend unto him the said John Gray Blount his Heirs and Assigns. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand and Seal this 6th day of October 1786

ANN HARVEY (SEAL)

Signed & Sealed

in presence of

R C Blackledge

Gift to Louisa Blount from Jacob Blount

[October 16, 1786]

North Carolina

Know all Men by these Presents that I Jacob Blount of the County of Craven and State aforesaid for and in consideration of the natural love and affection which I bear unto my Daugh-

ter Louisa Blount of the same place doth by these Presents, voluntarily fully and freely and of my own accord give grant convey and deliver and hath hereby given granted conveyed and delivered unto her the said Louisa Blount her Heirs Executors Administration and assigns for ever Six Negro Slaves to wit Sal and her four children nam'd Samuel Lydia Aaron and Peter and a Girl called Castle, also one Feather Bed and furniture—and I the said Jacob Blount do hereby for myself my Heirs Executon and Administraton warrant and defend the aforesaid negroes and feather Bed and furniture unto her the said Louisa Blount her Heirs Executon Administraton and assigns from the Claim or Claims of all manner of persons whosever In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand and Seal this sixteenth day of October in the Year 1786.

Signed Sealed and Delivered)

In presence—)

JACOB BLOUNT [2]

William Spencer Murphy)

State of North Carolina

I do hereby certify that the within Bill of Sale was proved the Twentieth day of November One Thousand Seven Hundred And Eighty Six by the Oath of William Spencer Murphey one of the Subscribing Witnesses thereto. before me the Subscriber in due Form of Law.

Let the same Bill of Sale be register'd

SAMⁱ. SPENCER J. S. C. L. E.

*Legislative Committee's Report on William Blount's
Indian Affairs¹⁷*

Jan 6, 1787

Your Committee to whom was referred sundry Papers respecting Indian Treaties and Indian affairs

Beg leave to report

That they have examined with attention the Papers to them refer'd and they find that by the Treaties entered into between the Commissioners appointed by the United States to treat with the Southern Indians and the Cherokee & Chickasaw Indians at Hopewell on the Keewee.

The Commissioners of the United States have allotted to the said Indians certain Lands as their Hunting Grounds which are obviously within the Jurisdiction of this State being North of the Boundary Established by Law between the Citizens and Indians, and a great part of which is for a valuable consideration sold to our Citizens some of whom are now actually Living thereon. Your Committee observe that the Commissioners having only allotted these Lands to the Indians as their Hunting Grounds, the Treaty doth not thereby annul the Title of those who hold under our Laws, but have dog'd it in a manner different from the Intentions of the Legislature and which does in effect suppose a right in the United States to interfere with our Legislative Rights which is inadmissable.

Your Committee thereupon recommend that the Delegates of this State in Congress be instructed to State our Rights to the Lands in a Question to the United States of America in Congress assembled to obtain a disavowel of the Treaties so far as they affect the same, and if the same should be persisted in, which your Committee cannot suppose from the known rectitude and wisdom of Congress that finally they formally protest against the same. [2]

Your Committee further Report

That The Honorable William Blount was appointed by the Executive in pursuance of the Notification from the Commissioners from the United States founded on a Resolution of Congress an Agent on the part of this State to be present with the Commissioners: and that he has wisely protested against the said Treaties so far as they affect us. And further that he was appointed to hold a Treaty with the Cherokee Indians and did attend at the Meeting of the Commissioners and Indians and according to the direction of the Governor and Council he shipped to the care of A. Vanderhousht in Charleston the Goods & etc. purchased for that Purpose. That from unavoidable delays in procuring Waggon's Col^o Vanderhurst could not send forward the Goods to the place of their destination until the Commissioners of the United States had Commenced their Negociation with the Indians the Tenor of which inspired the Indians with an Idea of such extensive advantages, that the Agent could not prevail on them to Treat on Terms admissable by the State, and was therefore necessitated to sell the Goods for the most that could be obtained which is as follows.

To Bryan Ward one third payable on the first day of April 1786 and the other 2/3 ^d on the 1 st day of April 1787 in Deer Skins Furs and Tobacco	£ 1333. 3.10
To George Ogg for Chas. Telfair & Co at their Franklin Store, kept by said Geo Ogg...	39.15.9
To William Blount	145. 9.9
	<hr/>
	£ 1518. 9.4

And the Rum procured for holding a Treaty disposed of as follows. [3]

To Bryan Ward 1 Hhd @ 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ Dollars P Gallon

To George Ogg 1 Hhd @ 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ drs P Gallon

3 Hhds sent to Washington to J[ohn] G & Tho. Blount 1 Hhd lost at Charleston by the heads bursting putting it into the Waggon as appears by Col^o Vanderhorst Letter.

The quantity sold Mr. Ward and Mr. Ogg not known for want of a Gauging Rod.

That the first payment being Deerskins an Article liable to damage if not early sent to Market was ordered to be shipped to Philadelphia to Stuart and Barr, and the after payment is Subject to the order of the General Assembly. That on the first payment four thousand deerskins or thereabout were received by Mr. George Ogg as p Agreement, and in all probability shipped to Philadelphia.

Your Commtee further Report

That it is evident, the Cherokee Indians are much dissatisfied with our disposition of the Lands claimed by them within our State, and that probably this dissatisfaction may arise from our not having given what they supposed an equivalent for their Claim: and as our last advices from Congress assure us that the Northern Indians will soon be engaged in a War with us, it may be Prudent to use such means as are in our power to remove the dissatisfaction in question in as speedy and amicable a manner as is practicable, Whereupon, Your Committee Recommend that Troops be immediately raised and stationed in Davidson County to prevent the Indians from taking any Hostile resolutions, in aid of the Northern Tribes, and that our Delegates in Congress be instructed to lay before the United States of America [3] America in Congress assembled the necessity of this Measure and to obtain leave to continue the same in Service while the necessity exists.

As a further reason why your committee are of opinion that the said Indian treaties are injurious to the citizens within the bounds [— — —] the Indians, your Committee refer to the act of Cession to the United States by which alone Congress can pretend any claim to territory within this State, one of the conditions in which is, that all grants of land theretofore made to any citizen or citizens or any entires made should have the same force and effect of as if the cession had not been made whereas the citizens to whom grants were made before the cession aforesaid have been left to the mercy of the Indians so that admitting the cession to be valid Congress have not in this instance, performed that conditions of the said act. Which is submitted

In the House of Commons 6 January 1787

A MACLAINE Ch.man

Read and Concurred with as amended

By order

J Hunt clk

JOHN B ASHE. S. C.

In Senate 6 Jany. 1787

read and concurred with

Jam^s. Coor S. C.

*Indenture Between Thomas and Titus Ogden and William
and John Gray Blount*

[May 25, 1787]

NORTH CAROLINA

This Indenture made this twentyfifth day of May One thousand seven Hundred and eighty seven between Thomas Ogden and Titus Ogden of the Town of New Bern and State aforesaid merchants of the one part and William Blount and John Gray Blount of the State aforesaid

WITNESSETH that the said Thomas Ogden and Titus Ogden for and in consideration of the Sum of two hundred pounds current money to them in hand paid by the said William Blount and John Gray Blount at and before the ensealing and delivery hereof the receipt whereof they doth hereby acknowledge hath granted bargained sold aleined conveyed and confirmed and by these presents do grant bargain sell alien convey and confirm unto them the said William Blount and John Gray Blount their

Heirs and Assigns for ever the following Tracts or parcels of Land (to wit) : one certain Tract or parcel of Land situate lying and being in the County of Wake in the State aforesaid on the Branches of Beaver Creek and Phillipis Branch, beginning at Joseph Lane's corner a red Oak running thence East One Hundred and twenty poles to a black Oak on Burwell Pope's Corner, thence north One Hundred and twenty eight poles to a corner pine, thence East One Hundred and fortyeight poles to a black Jack thence north One Hundred and sixty poles to a pine in Joseph Lane's line then west Sixty eight poles to the said Lanes Corner, a black Jack, thence north sixty poles to a pine thence west two Hundred and ninety three poles to a black Jack thence South three Hundred and forty eight poles to [2] a black Jack thence to the first Station containing by estimation Six Hundred and forty Acres be the same more or less—Also one other Tract or parcel of land situate lying and being in the aforesaid County of Wake on both sides of Phillipis Branch beginning at a White Oak in Burwell Pope's line at Joseph Lane's Corner on the east side of the said Branch thence South two hundred and forty poles to a pine thence west three Hundred and eighty eight poles to a pine in Benjamin Blake's line thence north ninety eight poles to the said Blakes Corner in the centre of three black Jacks thence west sixty five poles to a black Jack thence north One Hundred and forty two poles to a white Oak thence to the first Station containing by extimation Six Hundred and forty Acres be the same more or less both which Tracts or parcels of Land were conveyed Granted by patents bearing date the first day of April One Thousand seven Hundred and Eighty to Burwell Pope and by the said Pope conveyed to Thomas Tulloch and Harrison Macon by Deeds bearing date the nineteenth day of May 1783 and by the said Tulloch and Macon to the said Thomas and Titus Ogden by deeds bearing date the twenty first day of February One thousand seven Hundred and eighty four. To have and to hold the said Tracts or parcels of Land together with all and singular the appurtenances or premisses hereby granted unto them the said William Blount and John Gray Blount their Heirs and Assigns forever as Tenants in common and not as joint Tenants—and they the said Thomas Ogden and Titus Ogden for themselves their Heirs [3] Executors and administrators do covenant promise and grant to and with the said William Blount and John Gray Blount their Heirs Executors and Assigns to warrant and defend the said premisses hereby bargained and

sold unto them the said William Blount and John Gray Blount their Heirs Executors and Assigns from the Claim or Claims of all manner of persons whosoever claiming by from or under the said Thomas and Titus Ogden or by from or under any other person or persons whosoever In Witness whereof the said Thomas and Titus Ogden have hereunto set their Hands and affixed their Seals the day and date first above written

Signed Sealed and delivered) Thomas Ogden (SEAL)

in presence of) Titus Ogden (SEAL)

one Thousand & two hundred

involved before signing

John Camithy

Henry Vipor

Received New Bern the 25 day of May 1787. of William and John Gray Blount the sum of two Hundred pounds being the Consideration Money within expressed

THO^s. & TITUS OGDEN

Witness

John Camethey

State of North Carolina the Execution of the within Deed was proved by the Oath Henry Vipor one of the subscribing witnesses before me the subscriber in due course of Law this 26 day of May 1787.

Let the same be Registered

SAM^l. SPENCER J. S. C. L. E.

Registered in the Registers Office of Wake County in Book M and Page 246 this 10th of September 1794

WILLIS HINTON Reg^r

Examnd by

SAMU^l HINTON

Will of Louisa Blount Blackledge

Copy

November 3, 1788

In the name of God Amen I Louisa Blackledge being Sick, but of Sound and disposing mind and memory do make this my last Will and Testament in manner following—

Imprimis. I give and bequeath unto my loving Nephew Blount Blount,¹⁸ Son of William Blount two Lotts of Ground in the Town of Tarborough, known and distinguished in the Plan of the said Town by Number One Hundred and Four and Number One Hundred and Five (N^o 104 & 105) with all and Singular the Appurtenances thereunto belonging or in any wise appurtenant to him his Heirs and Assigns forever—

Item. I give and Bequeath unto my loving Niece Mary Louisa Blount Nine negros namely Ceasar, Roze, Mary, Fanny, Ben, Ledia, Aaron, Hannah and Amia to her, her Heirs and Assigns forever—

Item- I give and Bequeath unto my Brother Reading Blount Sixteen Negroes namely, Vallentine, Frank, Lettice, Moses, Monday Scipio, Charles, Sam Jenkins, Philip, Pompey, Tom, Jack Dennis Sal, Sam, Peter and Castill to him, His Heirs and Assigns forever—

Item. I give and bequeath unto my Beloved Husband Richard Blackledge, my Gold Sleeve Buttons and my weding Ring, to him His Heirs and assigns forever and it is my Will and Desire that my said Husband shall have the use of the Mentioned Lotts (N^o. 104 & 105) in the Town of Tarborough and the above mentioned negroes namely Ceasar, Roze, Mary, Fanny, Ben, Ledia, Aaron Hannah Amia, Vallentine, Frank, Lettice, Moses, Monday, Scippio Charles, Sam Jinkins, Philip, Pompey, Tom, Jack Dennis Sal, Sam, Peter and Castill during his life, then to go as before Bequeathed [2]

Item- I give and Bequeath unto Sarah Branton one negro Girl named Patience (after the Girls time is Expired that she has to live with M^{rs}. Conner of Craven County which will be when the said girl arrives at the Age of twelve years) to Her, Her Heirs and Assigns forever—

Item- I give and Bequeath unto my Sister Ann Harvey all my Clothes and wareing apparell of every Kind Whatever, to her, her Heirs and Assigns forever—

¹⁸Blount Blount was the son of William Blount. He died at Greenville, North Carolina, after William had gone to take over the office of governor of the Territory South of the River Ohio.

Lastly. I make, Constitute and appoint my Trusty Friend John Sitgraves Esquire sole Executor of this my Last Will and Testament hereby revoking all other and Former Wills by me heretofore made and declare this to be my last will and Testament. In Witness thereof I have hereunto sett my Hand and Seale this Third Day of November in the year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty Eight 1788

Signed Sealed Published
and Declared in presence of

her
LOUISA X BLACKLEDGE (SEAL)
mark

J Leigh
Charles Gerrard
J G L Schinck

A True Copy
Test

EDWARD HALL

*Notice by William Blount Concerning the Marriage Settlement
Property of Louisa Blount Blackledge*

[January 1, 1789]

————NOTICE————

By Virtue of an Indenture Tripartite Commonly Called marriage Settlement entered into on the 16th day of October 1786 between Richard Blackledge, Louisa Blount and William Blount he the Said William Blount and William Blount he the Said William Blount became vested with a Title in and to the Two Lotts in Tarborough Known and Destingwished in the plan of the said Town by Numbers One Hundred & Four & One Hundred and Five with the Improvements, also Nine Negroes Viz^t. Ceazar Rose Marry Fanny Ben Led, Arron, Hannah and Amey, in Trust for the purposes in the said Indenture Tripartite expressed. Which said Indenture Tripartite is on Record————

Now I the said William Blount do hereby forwarn all and Every person from Entering Selling purchasing or in any wise medlen with the aforesaid premises &c as they shall answer the Same at their peril

Tarborough Jan 1st 1789

W^m. BLOUNT

Advertisement respecting the House and Negroes bequeathed
& devised by my Sister Blackledge to Mary Blount
January 1st 1789

*List of Articles Shipped by Stuart & Barr to John Gray
& Thomas Blount*

PHILAD^a May 20th 1789

Mess John G & Thomas Blount

Bought of Stuart & Barr

3 Ps. [pieces] Oznabrigs 425 yards	121½ ^d	22	2	[8]
2 2' [two 2'] decanters	3-4 ^d		6	8
1 doz. Wine Glasses			6	6
6 Oval dishes 12.14 & 16			12	—
4 lb 13oz Hyson Tea	12-6	3	—	5
5 Galls boild Oil	5/	1	5	—
1 Pr brass Candlesticks		—	12	6
1 Chafen Dish		—	8	—
6 large American Spades	7/	2	2	—
½ doz. d ^o . Sickles		1	7	6
1 Ps Stripe Chintz 14 yards	5/	3	10	—
1 Ps Irish Linen 25 Do	2/6	3	2	6
1 Day Book (blank)		1	—	—
1 Letter Book		—	10	—
8 loaves Sugar 60 7 oz	15 ^d	3	15	6
2.0.4. Rope @ 7/ £7/2.6 [7 at £7-2-6 each]				
4 lb Twine	3/12			
1 Lead Line	4 & 6	7	19	
Ballast for the Schooner		2	5	
1 Kegg Yellow Ochre in Oil		1	3	6
1 Kegg 56 lb Spanish brown do		1	15	
2 D ^o White Lead	23/9	2	7	6
1 Prs Rusia Sheeting		4	15	
1 Ton Nail Rod		33	15	
Porterage			4	
Disbursments on Schooner Viz				
Cash pd Pilorage	£ 4.10	98	5	37

d ^o Capt. Cass	6			
	<u>10.10</u>			
Carr ^d over				
Amt. brot. over	£.10.10	98	5	3/
Pilorage down	<u>1. 8. 3</u>	11	18	3
		110	3	6/
Commissions at 2 ½ Pr		2	15	1
		<u>112</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>7</u>

Credit	
By Cash Rec ^d . of Captain	
Casso	£ 15
Flahavan of Willcox	
Note	81.18.9
Sale of Staves	<u>17. 7.4</u>
	114. 6.1
	<u>112. 8.7</u>
	1. 7.5

Mess^r John G & Tho^s. Blount
Gentlemen

Yours & Capt Cass we Rec^d and have used our Best En-
deavours to find a plain oval glass but there is none heare if
you send the Dementions we can have one made there is no
Black botles under 5/ Dos which so far the usual price that
we have not sent them: it was not in our power to get from
under £ 33.15 and that last it being the only parcel in town
at present in the other parts of your orders we have Come as
near your Direction as possible & hope they will give Content
we are with Much Respect yours

STUART & BARR

Mess John G & T Blount
Merchts
Washington

Hand by)
Capt Cassa)
May 20 89
Stuart & Barr
with Gooda
& Many

*List of Officers of the North Carolina line entitled to
Bounty of Land, by Act of Congress 16 & 18 Sept [17]76*

[Sent to John Gray Blount November 18, 1789]¹⁹

Note. a Colonel 500 Acres, Lt. Col Commandant 500. Lt. Col 450, Major 400, Captain 300, Lieut 200, Ensign 150 Major Gen^l. 1100, Brigadier 850, Physician & Surgeon 450 Surgeon 400. Mate 300—Non Commission'd Officers & Privates each 100—

James Armstrong Col Pitt		Tho. Callender Capt.	Wilmington
John Armstrong Lt. Col Surry		Aush.y Crutcher Lt.	Nashville
Wm Armstrong Capt Dan River		Jno. Clendennin do	
Tho. Armstrong Cap. Franklin		Dead	Hawfields
Saml Ashe Lieut Cape Fear		James Cowper do	
Wm Alexander do Rowan or M.		Tho. Clark do	Dan River
Nathl. Alexander Mate		Jno. Campbell do	Guilford
Hospitl. do		Wm Lee Davidson	
R Blount Maj		Lt Col	
Jas Blyth Surgeon		Tho Donoho Maj.	Caswell
Peter Bacol Capt Cape Fear		Geo. Doherty Capt.	Hillsbro
Kedar Ballard do Gates		Jno Davis do	
Gee Bradley do Halifax		Tilman Dixon do	Caswell
Alexander Brevard do Mecklenburg		Tho Dudley Lt.	
Benja Bailey do		Chas Dixon do.	Caswell
Saml Budd do		Wynn Dixon do.	do
Wm Bush Lieut. Jones		Thomas Evans Capt.	
Jos. Brevard do P or M		James Fergus Surgeon	Winton
Ro Bell do Halifax		Ro Fenner Capt.	
Ro Brownfield Mate		Wm Fawn do	Warren
Hosp ^l .		Richard Fenner Lt.	
Tho Clark Col		Tho. Finny Lt.	
Jno. Craddock Cap.		Jno. Ford do	Nashville
Benja Coleman do		James W Green Surg	
Benja Carter do R or M		Francis Graves Lt.	
Francis Child do		Charley Gerrard do	
Ro. Howe Major		Jno Nelson Maj	Mecklenburg
General		F Nash Bly. Dec'd	
Selby Harny Lt. Col		Tho Overton Capt.	
Comdr.		Dragoons 300	
Tho Hogg Major		Jno Patten—Col	
Clement Hall Capt.		Jas Pearl Capt.	Fayette
Joshua Hadley Do. Fayett		Tho Partem Lt.	
Wm Hargrave Lt.		Jesse Read Capt	Nashville
Harvey Holmes do. Duplin		James Read do	

¹⁹Rodman Manuscripts (North Carolina Department of Archives and History). This list was sent by Abishai Thomas, who was in New York [see above, p. 391, n. 26 (1788-1789) for sketch of Thomas], and was accompanied by a letter saying that he wished to be included in a speculation with John Gray Blount or alone. He thought that John Gray Blount would buy the soldiers' certificates and be able to sell them at a premium. A. C. Thomas to John Gray Blount, November 18, 1789.

Jno Hill	do	Cape Fear	Ro Raiford	do	Bladen
Solo. Halling Physn.			Jas. Tho. Rhodes	do	Duplin
& Surgeon			Jethro Sumner B.		
Jno Ingles Capt			Genl dec'd		Warren
Samt Jones do		Cape Fear	Cha Stewart Capt dec'd		
Curtis Ivey Lt.			John Sumners do		Caswell
Philip Jones Capt			Anthony Sharp do		
Lt. Artv.	200		Danl Scham do		Cape Fear
Jno Kingsbury Capt. do	3		Stephen Slade do		
Gidion Lamb Col			Wm. Sanders do		Caswell
Asch Lytle do.			James Scunlock do		Chatham
Wm Lytle Capn.			Jesse Steed do		
Micajah Lenier do,			dec'd		
dead Surry			Jas. Thachston Lt. Col.		
Abner Lamb Lt.			Comdr.		
Nathl Lawrence do		N. York	Jas. Tatum Lt.		Halifax
Hardy Murfree LtCol			Jno. Vance Lt Artillery	200	
Griffith M McKee Maj.			Wm. Walton Capn. Dead		
W. W. Clure Surg.			Wm Williams do Invalid		Hillsboro
Jas Monfort Cap			Nathl Williams Lt.		
Jno McKees do			Ed. Yarbrough Capt.		Salisbury
James Mills do					
Elijah Moore do					
Dixon Marshall Lt.					
James Moore do					
Wm M Lane—Surg.					
Mate					

The following Officers were kill'd and their representatives are entitled to Lands but by a defect in the Muster roll: they are not returned to the Near Office, if any of their claims should be purchased, I can without doubt Procure the warrant, a certificate from R. Blount who knows of most of them will be perhaps sufficient, at least it will assist

Henry Irwin Lt. Col—Kill'd	at Germantown 4 Octo.	77
W. Cann Lieut.	do	do
Jacob Turner Capt	Warren	do
John Reidpath Lieut	do	do
Joshua Bowman Capt.	Charleston about 1 Apl.	
Pinkethman Caton Maj.	at Augusta in Georgia about 1 July—81	
Wm. Goodman Capt.—	at Eataw	8 Sept. 81
Christopher Goodon do	Bladen or Forsyth	do
Denny Porterfield do		do
Benjamin Dillon Lieut.		do
Robert Mebane Lt. Col	Kill'd Sept. 1 returning from pursuit of the Tories yet taken out except Tho.	

Non Commission'd Officers & Privates

Davis Ambros	Drums		Lyman Barke Corp.	
Gideon Atkins	do	. 15	Giles Bowers	P
Simon Alderson	Serj		Dempsey Bryan—	
Sam ^l Baxter	do		Luke Bates	
Joseph Brown	Corpl.		David Chester Surg.	
John Bailey	priv.		John Carter Priv.	
Thos ^s . Brown		20	Levi Colter	Hillsboro
Wm Bryant			Isaac Clarke	
Wm. Brown			Wm. Cole	Fife
Wm Burnett			John Cowper	P.
Frederick Blount		25	Isaac Clark	
Drury Bynum	Surj.		James Christian	
Charles Bright	do		Kedar Copeland	Halifax
Wm Douglass			M Long	
Philip Dean			Jno Lee	
John Ellis			Jno Leech	
John Etheridge		60	Isaac Lewis	
Abraham Fowler			Burwell Lacy	
Wm Faithful			Gibbs Lamb	
Jessie Faulk			Benjamin Mott	
Jno Graham		65	Solo. Middleton	
Joseph Gurley			Dan ^l W. Fater	
Briton George			Robt. M Kinny	
Sam ^l Gainer			Morris Moras	
John Gill		70	Roger M. Raw	
Wm Griffin			Egerton Mott	
Adam Hart			Arthur MDonald	
Peter Hadrock			Henry Miller	
Rich ^d . Hardwink			William McKenzie	
Jno Hurley		75	William M Intire	
Joshua Harvey			Philip Mason	
James Hakers			Matthew Newby	
John Harrell			John Platt	
Caleb Jordan		80	Wm. Raford	
Crawford Johnston			Wm. Price	
Benjamin Joiner			Wm. Royal	
James Jones			Richard Roberts	
Jonah Jones			Benjamin Rivers	
Milo Knight		85	Cornelius Ryan	
Edward King			Cesar Santee	
Larks or				
Francis Lark,	Larks, this is right		Vincent Salmon	
			Sampson Sikes	

Jacob Blount's Obituary

August 20. Died:

On Monday the 17th. instant, of a nervous fever at his seat (Blount Hall) Col. Jacob Blount, aged 63 years—He was possessed of affluent fortune, which he acquired by his own industry, in the early part of his life, and enjoyed in the latter, with ease and liberality, in either of which he never risked his good name, but on the contrary enhanced it—independent in his sentiments and steady in his resolutions, he abeyed the impulse of his own mind * and by always doing that which appeared to him right, obtained the friendship of many, and the esteem and respect of all who knew him. It would be difficult to determine whether his hospitality was more general or liberal—at all times his doors were alike open to the poor and to the rich—the distressed, the weary, and the sick traveller, were sure to find a home at Blount-Hall; and the face of honesty was the best recommendation there—in public life, he was the real patriot, in private, the uniform steady and sincere friend; he adjusted the differences in his neighborhood, with justice and moderation, and contributed much to the order, peace, and happiness of it—he was candid, chearful, and social, seldom too grave for the young, or too gay for the old; the equality of his spirits bespoke the comforts of a quiet conscience, and agreeable to the idea of Pope, he was "The noblest work of God, an H O N E S T M A N."¹

RECORDS OF GRANTS OF LAND MADE TO JACOB BLOUNT IN CRAVEN AND PITT
COUNTIES IN THE LAND GRANT OFFICE, RALEIGH²

County	Book	Page	File	Grant	Acres	Date	Location
Craven	15	232	1862	not given	240	5/23/1757	On north side of Great Contentney ³ between John Caldom's lines and creek near Francis Jackson.
Craven	13	163	1525	"	240	"	On north side of Contentney

¹From a photostatic copy of the newspaper, *State Gazette of North Carolina* (New Bern), issue of September 3, 1789.

²The index of the card files in the Land Grant Office will not show all the grants. The indices of individual books should be consulted. Some have an index in the front of the book, some in the back, and an occasional one will appear in the main body of the book.

³There are variations in the spelling of Contentney, but since no variation in meaning has been found one spelling has been used.

County	Book	Page	File	Grant	Acres	Date	Location
Craven	15	270	1919	"	100	3/6/59	On west side of Clay Root Swamp between Henry Jarrel's and Shadrach Allen's.
"	13	205	1582	"	100	"	" " " " "
"	18	18	2529	193	125	12/23/63	Beginning at Horse Ford low lands in front of land where he now lives on Contentney Creek
"	17	25	2279	"	"	"	Including the lowlands where he now lives
"	18	18	2530	194	400	"	North side of Great Contentney Swamps where William Milner lives.
"	17	25	2280	"	"	"	" " " " "
"	17	26	2281	195	214	"	On both sides of Contentney Creek
"	18	128	2606	319	500	11/16/64	East side of Contentney Creek
"	17	143	2356	319	500	"	East side of Contentney where he now lives
"	17	228	2383	194	150	10/30/65	West side of Black Swamp. Piney Pocoson.
"	18	207	2633	"	"	"	" " " " " "
"	18	18	2531	195	214	12/23/64	Black Swamp
"	23	77	3216	648	200	4/27/67	East side of Contentney Creek between Caldom's, Alderson and Jackson's.
"	23	117	191	204	100	10/27/67	On Little Contentney
"	22	361	3112	222	640	7/21/74	On Moseley's Creek Swamp (Dog Point) and Harry's Branch.
"	22	409	3155	472	400	7/22/74	North side of Contentney Creek
"	27	187	3675	1140	200	3/11/75	North side of Contentney Creek to Caldom's line adjoining land he now lives on.
"	61	39	3897	199	60	8/9/86	North side of Great Contentney
Pitt	23	117	191	204	100	10/26/67	East side of Long Branch
	25	170	2043	768	245	3/4/75	East side of Little Contentney
"	27	132	218	769	245	"	"
"	38	239	261	43	200	7/1/79	South side of Tar River on north side of Little Contentney
"	30	406	2843	358	300	11/12/79	On North side of Drowning Creek
"	43	53	166	166	50	2/15/80	On North side of Contentney Creek
"	43	53	386	166	50	10/21/82	North side of Little Contentney
"	64	460	973	854	70	7/11/88	East side of Little Contentney

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